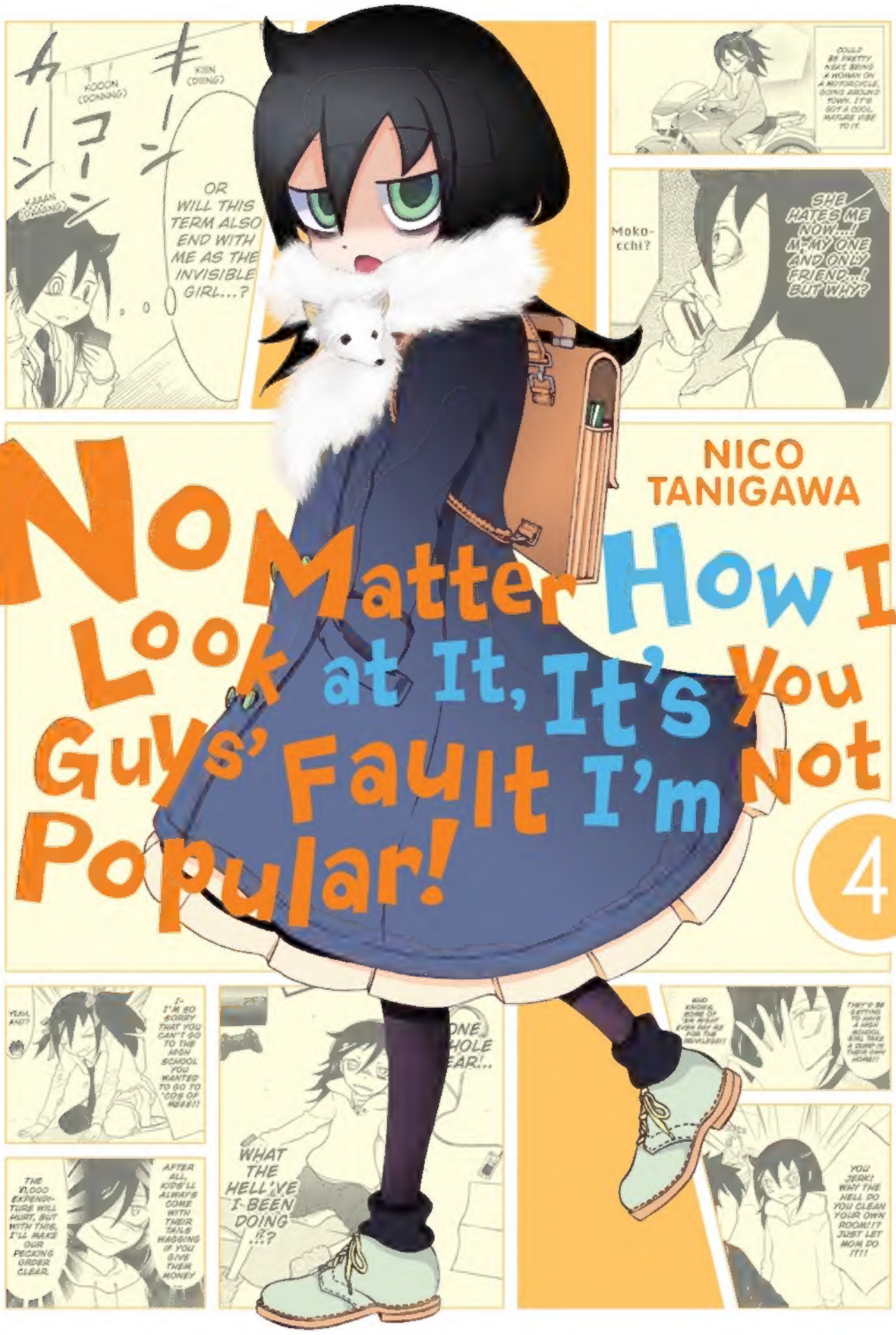
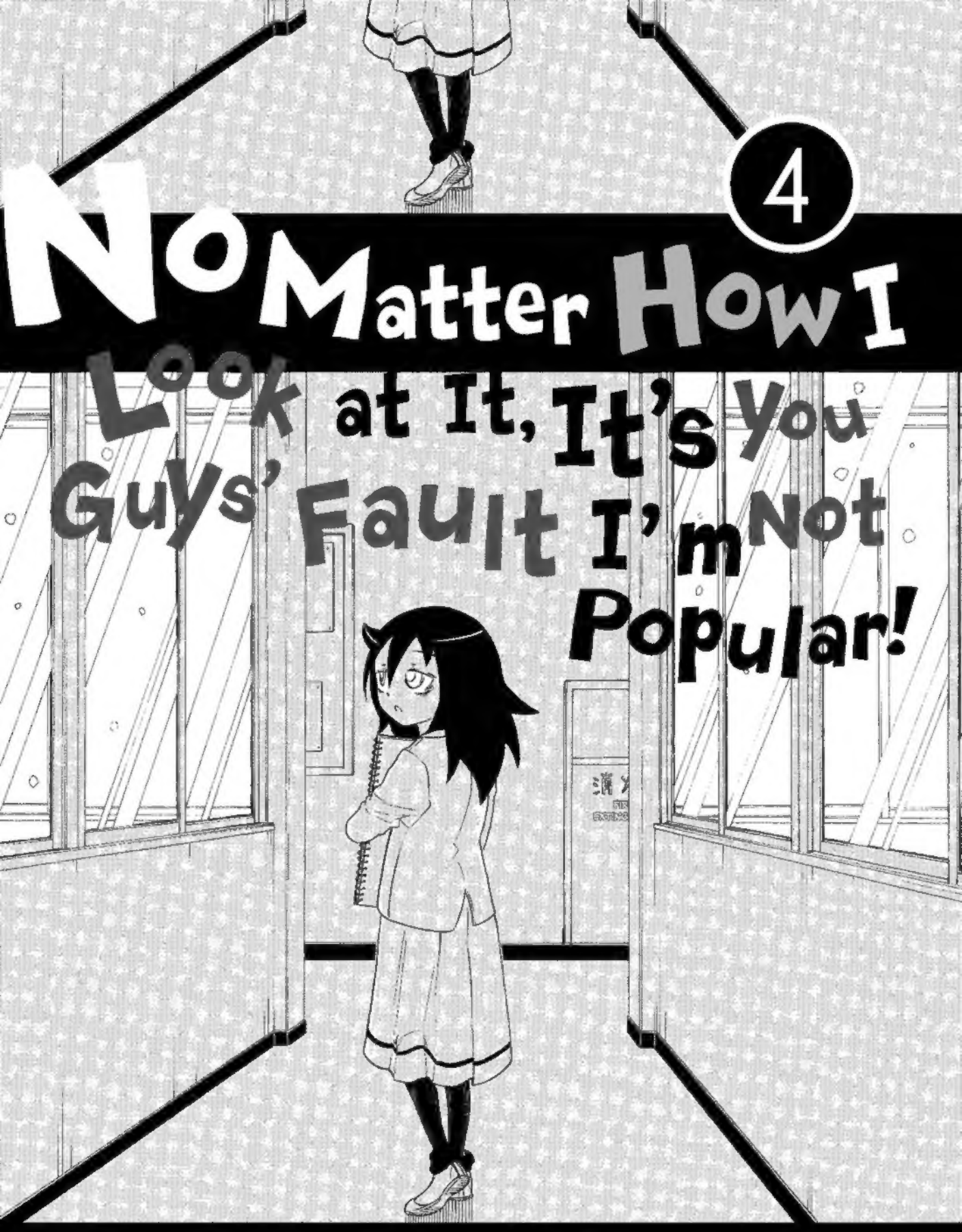

KOON (DONING)
KOON (DONING)
OR WILL THIS TERM ALSO END WITH ME AS THE INVISIBLE GIRL...?
COULD BE PRETTY NEAT BEING A WOMAN ON A MOTORCYCLE, GOING AROUND TOWN. IT'S GOT A COOL, RATGAR VIBE TO IT.
SHE HATES ME NOW...!! M-MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND...! BUT WHY?
Moko-cchi?
NO Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!
NICO TANIGAWA
4
I-I'M SO SORRY THAT YOU CAN'T GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOL YOU WANTED TO GO TO 'COS OF ME!!!
YEAH, AND?
WHAT THE HELL'VE I BEEN DOING...!?
ONE... HOLE EAR!...
AND KNOWS, MORE OF 'EM MIGHT EVEN SAY OR PUB THE INVALIDS!!
THEY'D BE GETTING TO HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL TAKE A DUMP IN THEIR OWN HOME!!
AFTER ALL, KIDS'LL ALWAYS COME WITH THEIR TAILS WAGGING IF YOU GIVE THEM MONEY
THE BLOOD EXPENDI-TURE WILL HURT, BUT WITH THIS, I'LL MAKE OUR PECKING ORDER CLEAR.
YOU JERK! WHY THE HELL DO YOU CLEAN YOUR OWN ROOM!!? JUST LET MOM DO IT!!!



Presented by
NICO TANIGAWA

FAIL 28 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL TRY OUT THE NIGHTLIFE.* 003

FAIL 29 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL MAKE A CAKE.* 021

FAIL 30 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL RUN.* 033

FAIL 31 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL BE DELUSIONAL.* 051

FAIL 32 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *THE YEAR'S ENDING.* 059

SPECIAL CHAPTER 2 075

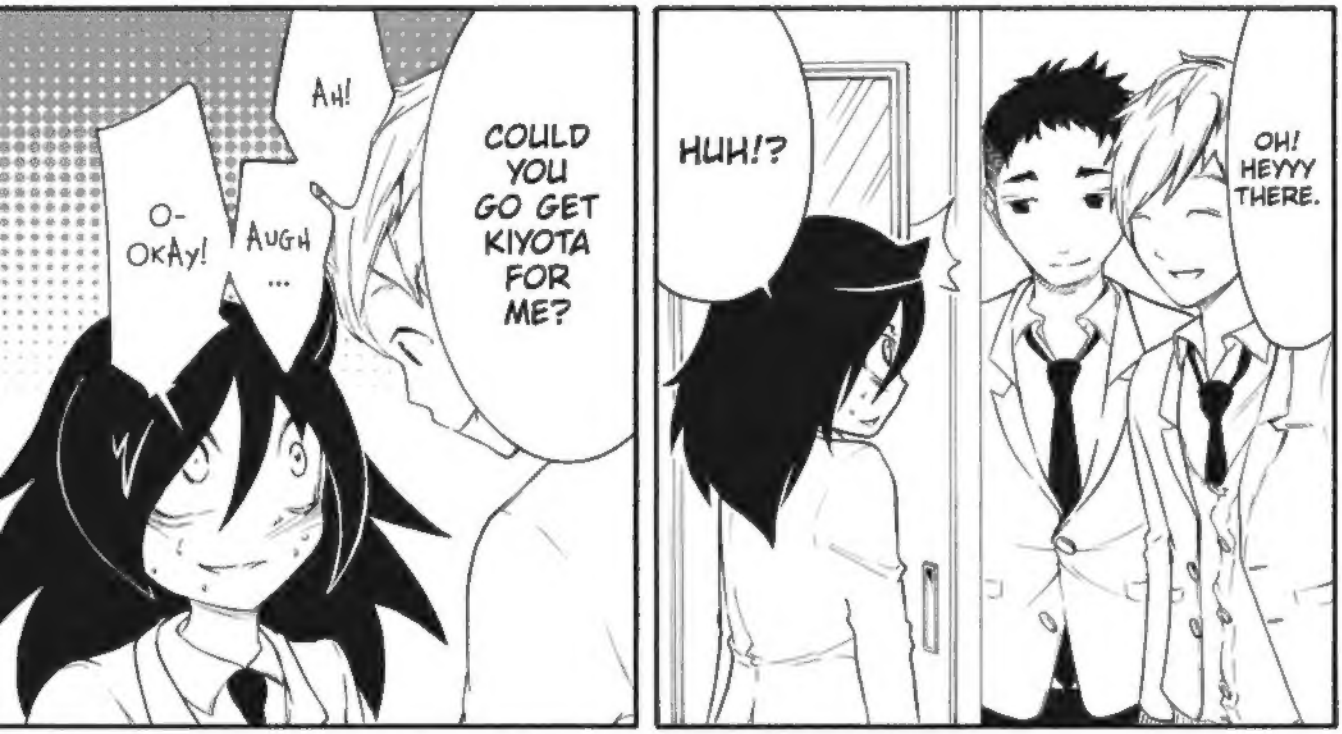
FAIL 33 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL GREET THE NEW YEAR.* 085

FAIL 34 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL STAND OUT.* 099

FAIL 35 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL MOTHER MY BROTHER.* 107

FAIL 36 I'M NOT POPULAR, SO *I'LL BECOME AN ADULT.* 121

TEKU
TEKU (TROT)
FAIL 28:
I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL TRY OUT THE NIGHTLIFE.
GATA (CLATTER)
OFF TO THE BATH-ROOM...
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA (CHATTER)


COULD YOU GO GET KIYOTA FOR ME?
AH!
O-OKAY!
AUGH ...
HUH!?
OH! HEYYY THERE.

HOW'M I S'POSED TO GET HIS ATTENTION ...!?
KI-YOTA... IF I'M NOT MIS-TAKEN, KIYOTA IS THE GUY IN FRONT OF ME ...

BIKU (JUMP)
!!?
NN?
WHAT'S UP, KUROKI-SAN?
COME TO THINK OF IT, CALLING OUT HIS NAME IS EVEN MORE IMPOSSIBLE!
NO FREAKIN' WAY I CAN JUST RANDOMLY WALK UP TO HIM AND BE ALL "HEY"!!
OH! NOW I GET IIIIIIT—!
TH—
TH—
UMM... KI-KI-KI-YOTA-KUN.
THOSE GUYS ARE ASKING ...
...FOR...
...YOU...
HUH?
...O... O-O-OVER THERE!
AUO...
AH...
PEO-PLE...
黒木
KURO KI

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I STOPPED BEING ABLE TO TALK TO PEOPLE LIKE NORMAL ...?
WHAT'LL I DO IF I STAY LIKE THIS ...?
NEWS
UP TILL MIDDLE SCHOOL... NO, FOURTH GRADE, I WAS JUST FINE...
Was this your first job in this line of work?
Yes!
NEWS
Today, we'll be talking to Alice-san, who's already made it at the tender age of nineteen.
Coming up, an interview with Shinjuku's top hostess!

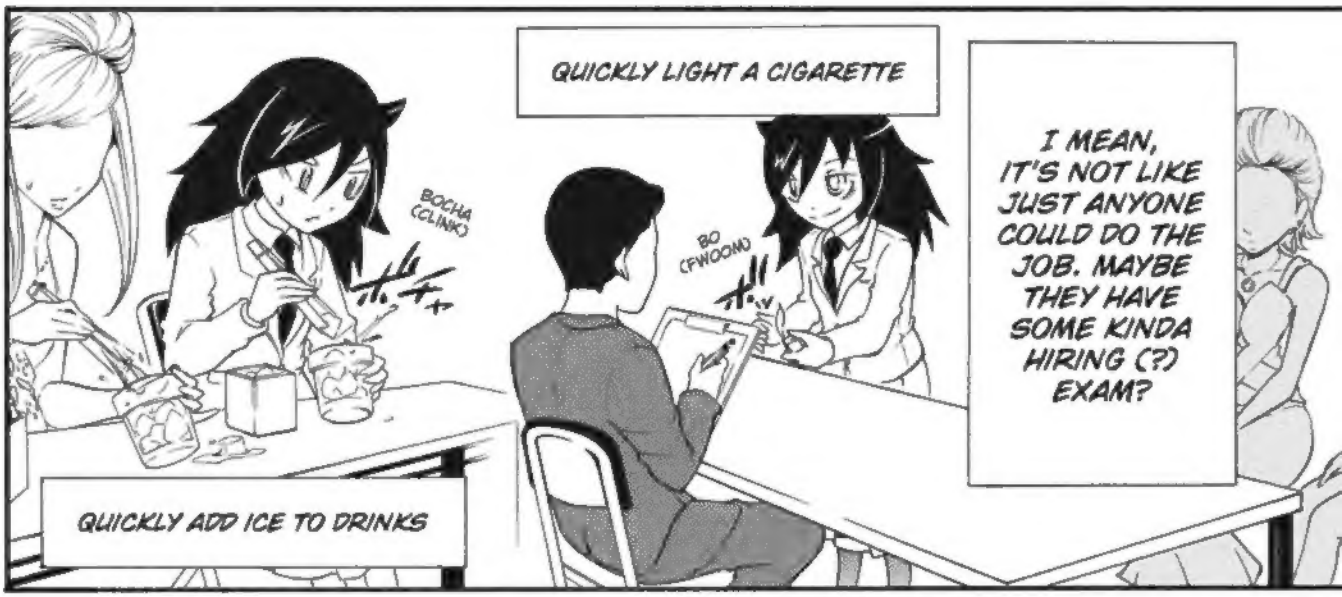
Q: WHAT'S THE SECRET TO YOUR SUCCESS?
Nothing in particular. I just happen to really enjoy the time I spend with my customers.
At first, I was shy and didn't know how to talk to anyone.
It was a real struggle for me.

Q: HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THAT?
Well, the customers were so nice, and with the help of my senpai, I got better at it bit by bit.
Now I take great pleasure in talking to all kinds of people.

SO MAYBE IF I WORK AT A HOSTESS BAR, I'LL GET AWESOME AT TALKING TO PEOPLE TOO...!!
.....!!

BUT HOSTESS CLUBS ARE THE DOMAINS OF S-CLASS BITCHES. IN THAT SORT OF ENVIRON-MENT...
...THE STRESS COULD MAKE ME END UP LIKE THE WHITE-HAIRED KIDS FROM AK●RA...
...OR I MIGHT DIE FROM GETTING HIT WITH SHEER GIRL POWER IF I DON'T WATCH MY BACK...
TOMOKO-CHAN!?
BUT, BUT...! IF IT WORKS OUT, THEN I COULD BE AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL BY DAY AND THE No. 1 HOSTESS BY NIGHT KINDA THING...!

HOW DO YOU BECOME A HOSTESS, ANYWAY? DO YOU GOTTA INTER-VIEW?
I'D HAVE TO LIE ABOUT MY AGE...
.....


QUICKLY LIGHT A CIGARETTE
BOCHA (CLINK)
BO (FWOOM)
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE JUST ANYONE COULD DO THE JOB. MAYBE THEY HAVE SOME KINDA HIRING (?) EXAM?
QUICKLY ADD ICE TO DRINKS

THE NEXT DAY
WEL-COME —!

YEP... THAT SOUNDS RIGHT. I HAVE TO BE READY FOR THAT, JUST IN CASE.

BO
KACHI (CLICK)
KACHI

THAT WILL BE ¥105.

!?
SU (SWF)

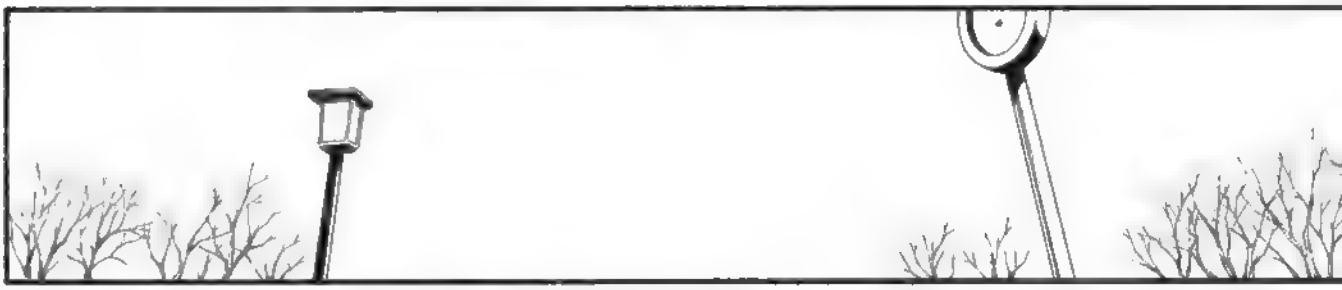
.....

WHEW—

AH ...!?

KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI (CLICK)

..... DAMMIT!

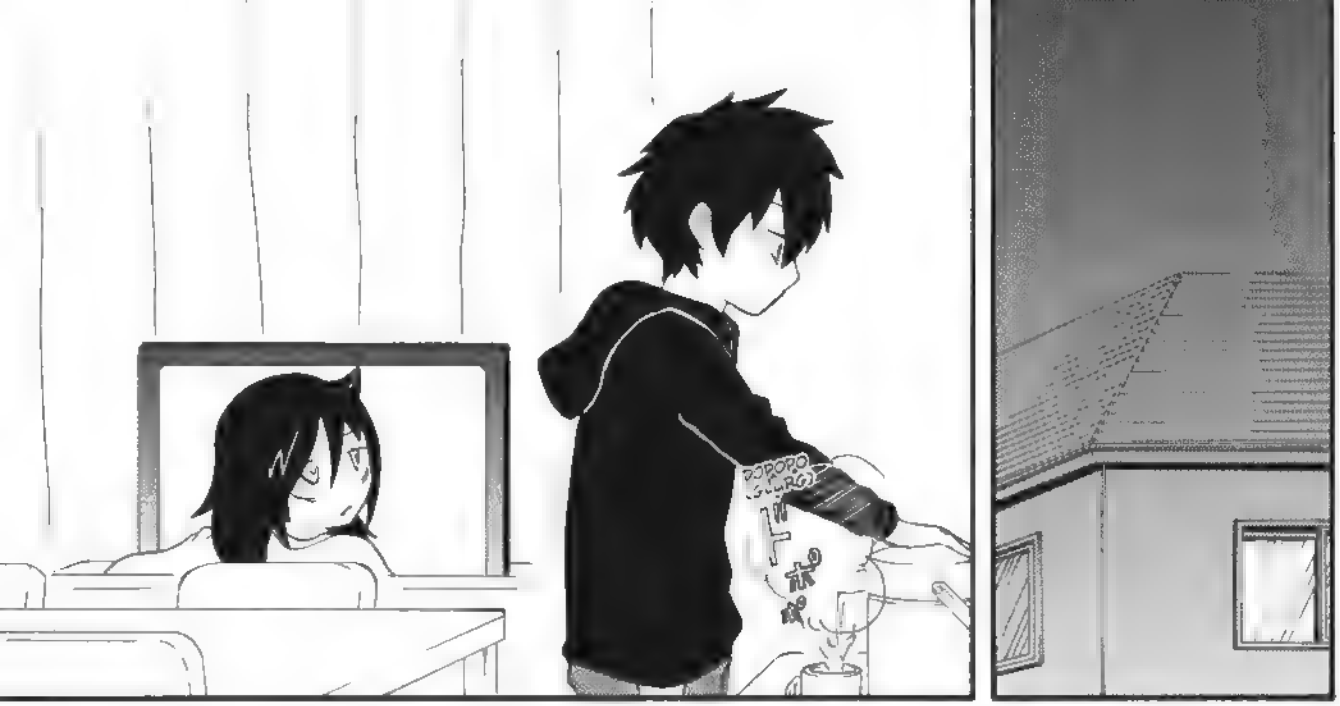


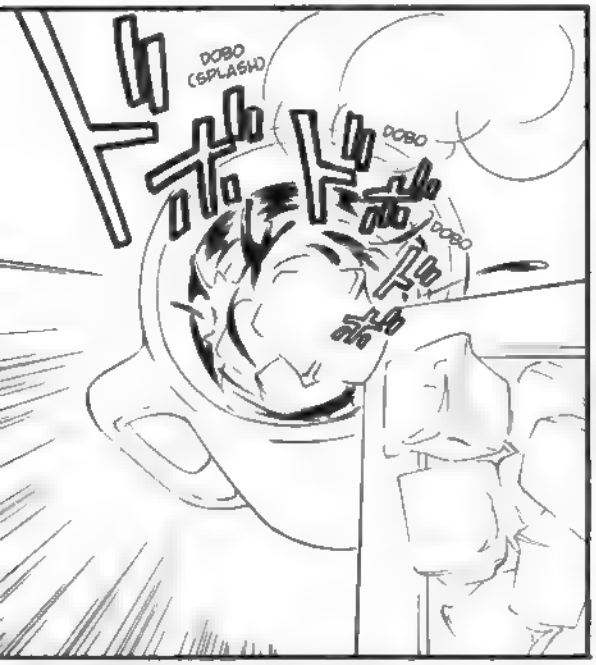
=CLICK=
=CLICK=
=FWOOM=

WHEW!
DOKA! (PLOP)

NI (GRIN)

?
PAA (GLOW)


DOPOPO (GLURG)


DOBO (SPLASH)
DOBO
DOBO

SPOON, SPOON.

HERE YOU GO.

KARA
KARA
KARA (RATTLE)

AH HA HA HA!
CIGARETTES AND BOOZE. I'VE GOT MY HOSTESS SKILLS DOWN TO A SCIENCE NOW...

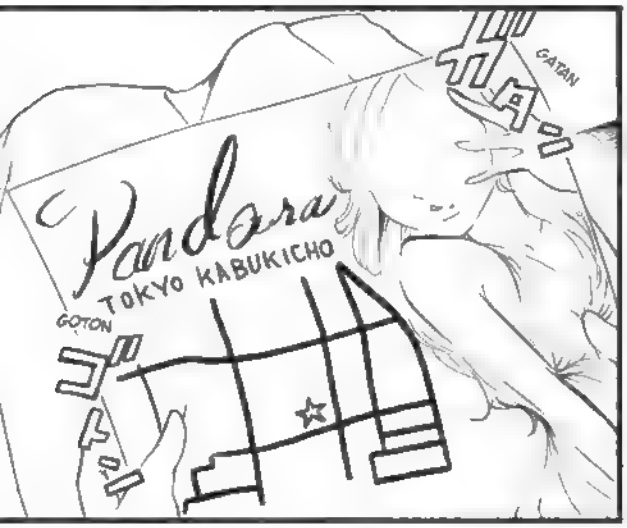
ME, LIVING IN THE SHADOWY UNDER-BELLY, LEAVING THESE NORMALS TO THE LIGHT.
I'LL SOONIBE LIVING IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD FROM THEM...

.....

"DID YOU CATCH THAT SHOW?" OR "I'M SO TIRED OF MY CLUB," NORMAL TALK FOR NORMAL PEOPLE...

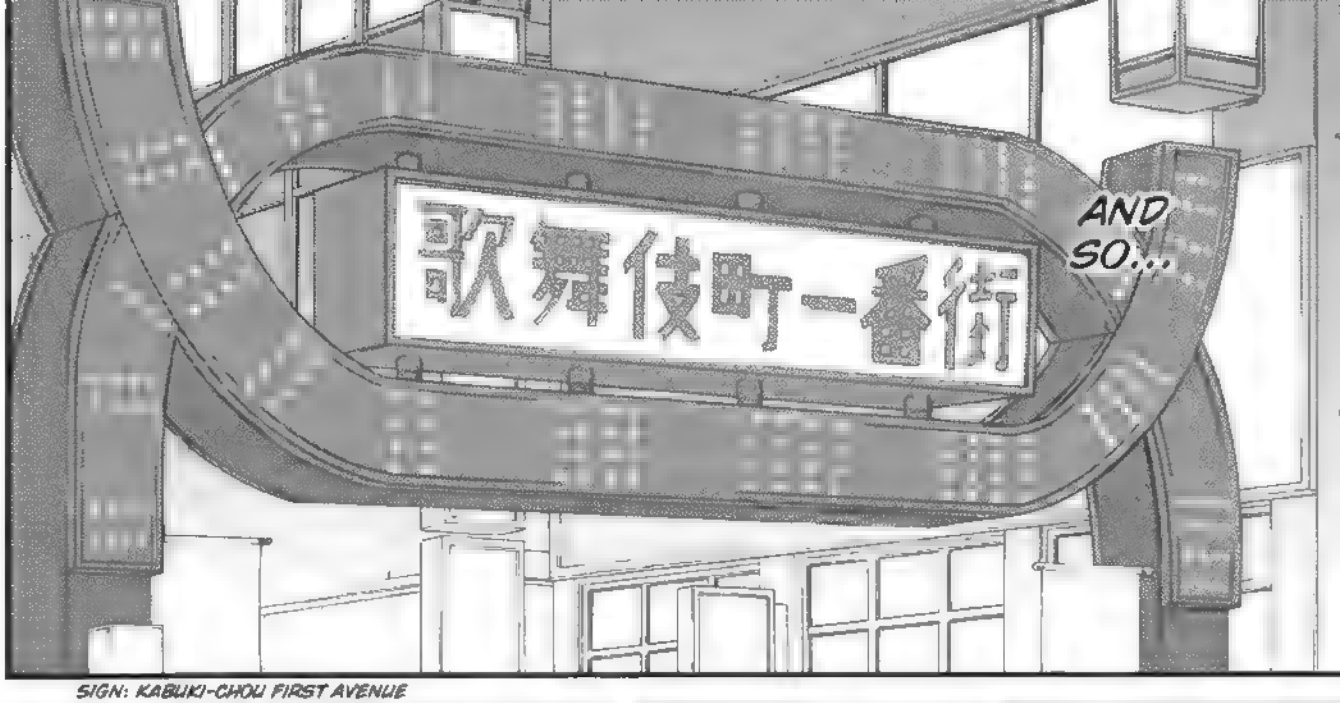
NO WAY THERE'RE GONNA BE ANY OTHER ROTTEN GIRLS MOON-LIGHTING AT A HOSTESS CLUB IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL LIKE ME. FU-FU...
FIGURES, THOUGH...
GATA (CLATTER)

MY IMAGINATION'S RUNNING WILD...!? AH, I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
WHILE IN A SLEEPLESS CITY SOAKED WITH LUST, I WHISPER, "IT'S A TRUE WORLD."


GATAN
Pandora
TOKYO KABUKICHO
GOTON

GATAN (RATTLE)
GOTON (CLATTER)

Next stop, Shinjukuuu! Shinjukuuu!
GOTON
IT'S A BIT FAR BUT NOT TOO BAD.



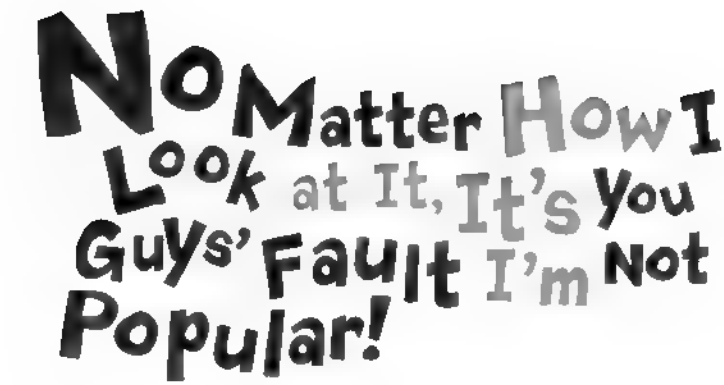
SIGN: KABUKI-CHOU FIRST AVENUE

U-UM, LET'S SEE, WHERE I'M HEADED... LOOKS PRETTY FAR IN, GOING BY THE MAP. AM I GONNA BE OKAY ...?
KA
KA (CLICK)
ピーヒョロ
PIIIPOOO (WEEEOOO)
PIIIPOOO
BIKU (JUMP)
W-WELL, SINCE I'M NO ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL, WALKING THROUGH KABUKI-CHOU DOESN'T FAZE ME...
YOU'RE CUTE. DO YOU MODEL? I MIGHT HAVE A PRETTY SWEET GIG JUST FOR YOU...
HEY, GOT A MINUTE?
YEAH, SHOULD BE FINE. THAT WOMAN'S WALKING HERE ALL ALONE ...
HUH?
KATA (SHAKE)
KATA
AH... AAH... AHHHH! AH WAH WAH WAH WAH!
SUTA (STRIDE)
SUTA
!?
OH! OFF TO WORK? OKAY, CATCH YA LATER!

BAKUN (GAPE)
BAKUN
HAAH!
HFF!
C'MON, JUST LISTEN TO ME FOR FIVE MINUTES! NO, ONE!
OKAY, TEN SECONDS? FIVE?
SU (SWF)
HEY, BABE. SPARE ME A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME?
BIKU (JOLT)
EEP!
HRN!?
I THINK THEY SAID THOSE WERE S'POSED TO BE ILLEGAL ON COPS 24/7 OR SOMETHING...
UNCEN-SORED!!?
HEY, MAN. WE GOT UNCEN-SORED DVDs!
S&M SHOW CLUB
Aromatic Scents
HERB
SEMI-LEGAL Herbs
KAKU (SHAKE)
KAKU
KAKU
KAKU
KAKU
DO
DO
DO (CLUNK)
!!?
B-B-B-BACK TO THE MAIN STREET FOR NOW!!
KURU (TURN)

WHOA-HAAA-AAAH!!
≒RRR≒
≒RRR≒
≒RRR≒
≒RRR≒
BA (WHAP)
THIS IS MESSED UP..... THIS CITY IS ALL MESSED UP!
What's wrong? Are you coming home?
YEAH... I'M COM-ING.
M—I MO...
JIWAA (TEARY)
じわあ
Oh! Tomoko? You're not back yet. What are you doing for dinner?
HI HELLO...?
Well, get here soon, we're having sukiyaki tonight.
O-OKAY...
I'M SORRY.
I... I'WW BE RIGHT...
...DERE, SO...

BAG: MARSHMALLOWS


No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

FAIL 29: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL MAKE A CAKE.

Yvv Narvse
BU (RRR)
BU
BU
HN!?
•ω

...some-thing last-minute came up, so I can't make it... I'm really sorry.

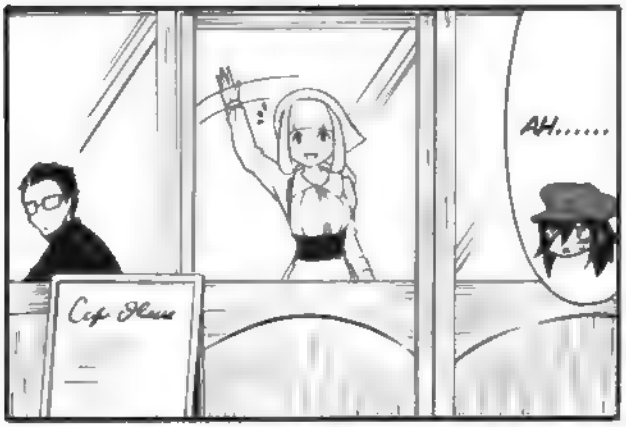
Hello, Moko-cchi?
OH, YUU-CHAN? IS THIS ABOUT THE MOVIE ON SUNDAY?
Yeah... Well, you see...

IS IT 'COS OF ALL THE WEIRD TEXTS I SENT?
Yvv-chan
Yvv-chan, what kind of vnderwear are you wearing? (´･ω･`)

Moko-cchi?
SHE HATES ME NOW...! M-MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND...! BUT WHY?

I have to help out at my uncle's café this weekend.
HOLY HELL...! I'VE GIVEN HER ENTIRELY TOO MANY GOOD EXCUSES TO DUMP ME!
OR WAS IT ALL MY PERVY PHONE CALLS?
HEY, YUU-CHAN, LET'S PLAY DIRTY SHIRITORI!
Eh!?
I'LL START. SHAFT!
Huh!? Huh? Umm... T-tits?
WHOOO—!
IF WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE MOVIE, I JUST WANNA STAY HOME GAMING... BUT IF I SAY NO, SHE MIGHT DUMP ME FOR REAL...
Oh! Do you maybe wanna come by Saturday or Sunday, Mokocchi? It'll be my treat.
THEY HAVE YUMMY CAKES.
Yeah. There's been a bad cold going around the wait-staff...
... HUH!? AT A CAFÉ?
SUNDAY
SURE, I'LL GO... CAN'T WAIT!
Great! See you then!

Cafe Hive
Cafe Hive


AH.....
Cafe Hive

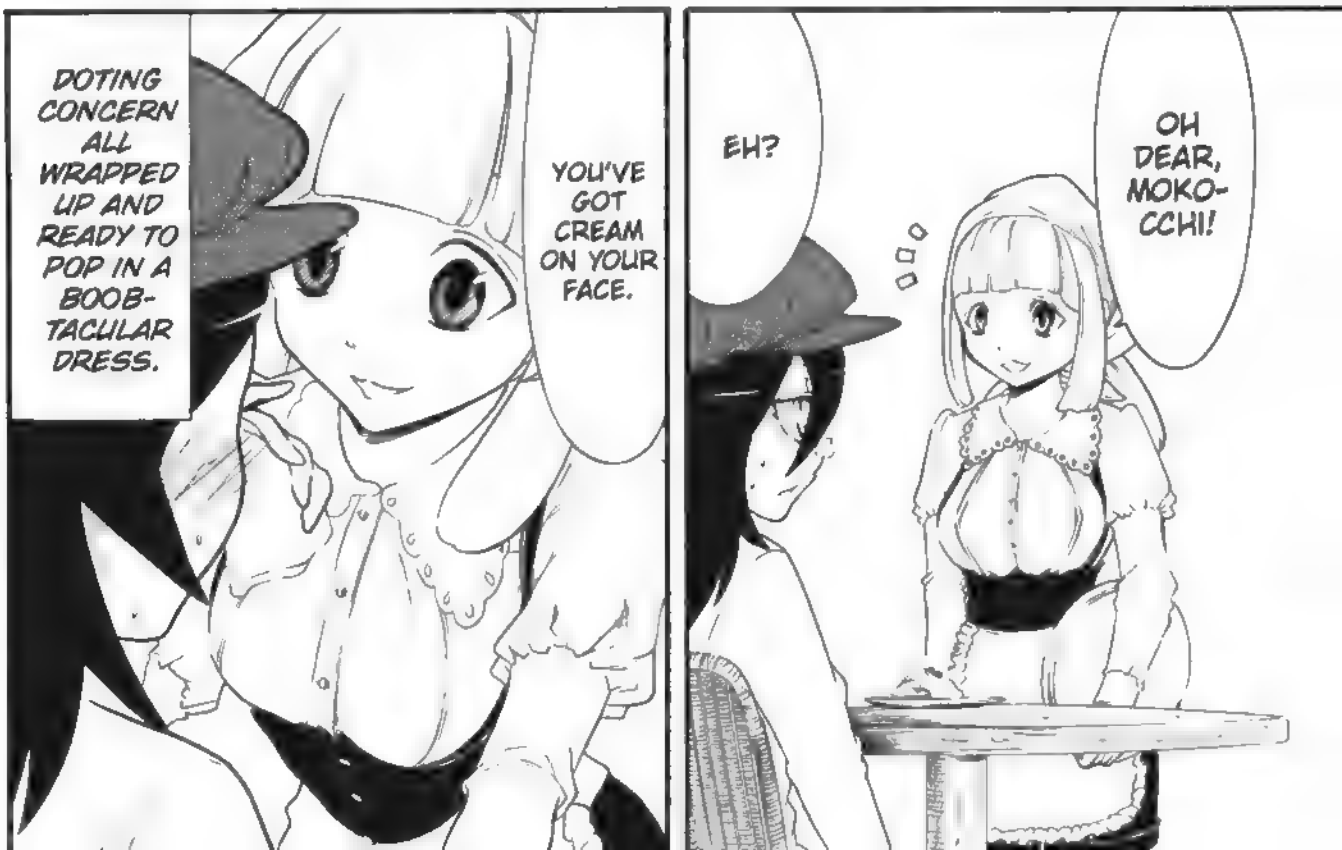
I DON'T WANNA GO IN. I'LL BE THE ONLY LOSER THERE BY MYSELF...

BOOB-TACULAR ...
HEYA...
WELCOME, MOKOCCHI!
KARAN (JINGLE)

EXCUSE MEEE!
YES, JUST A MINUTE!
UMM... O-OKAY, THIS CAKE...
ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT. I CHECKED WITH MY UNCLE.
HOKU (STEAM)
HOKU
SO YESTERDAY, WHILE I WAS HOME EATING BAKED SWEET POTATOES, WATCHING VIDS, AND PLAYING GAMES, YUU-CHAN WAS WORKING HERE AT THIS FANCY CAFÉ ...?
AH...
KACHA (CLINK)
HERE YOU GO, MOKOCCHI!

A STYLISH WORK-PLACE.
HIP CLIEN-TELE.
FANCY CAKES.

MOCHA CRUNCH
もちゃ
MOCHA
もちゃ
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT SETS US APART, ME AND YUU-CHAN, WHO'S MADE HER HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT...


DOTING CONCERN ALL WRAPPED UP AND READY TO POP IN A BOOB-TACULAR DRESS.
YOU'VE GOT CREAM ON YOUR FACE.
EH?
OH DEAR, MOKO-CCHI!

SO IF I GET MYSELF INTO A FANCY SETTING LIKE YUU-CHAN, THEN MAYBE ...!
MOCHA
もちゃ
MOCHA
もちゃ
?
WHAT WAS I THINKING, LOOKING TO HOSTESSES FOR ADVICE ...? I GOT SOMEONE RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME TO USE AS A MODEL...
HM? DO I KNOW ANYONE WHO BAKES CAKES?
I'M HOME.
黒木
I HEARD THEY'RE HAVING A TOUGH TIME WITH CHRISTMAS COMING.
WHAT!!?
YOU DO?
I HAVE A FRIEND WHO DOES CAKES.
TON (CHOP)
トン
UM, YEAH... WELL, PROLLY NOT, HUH?

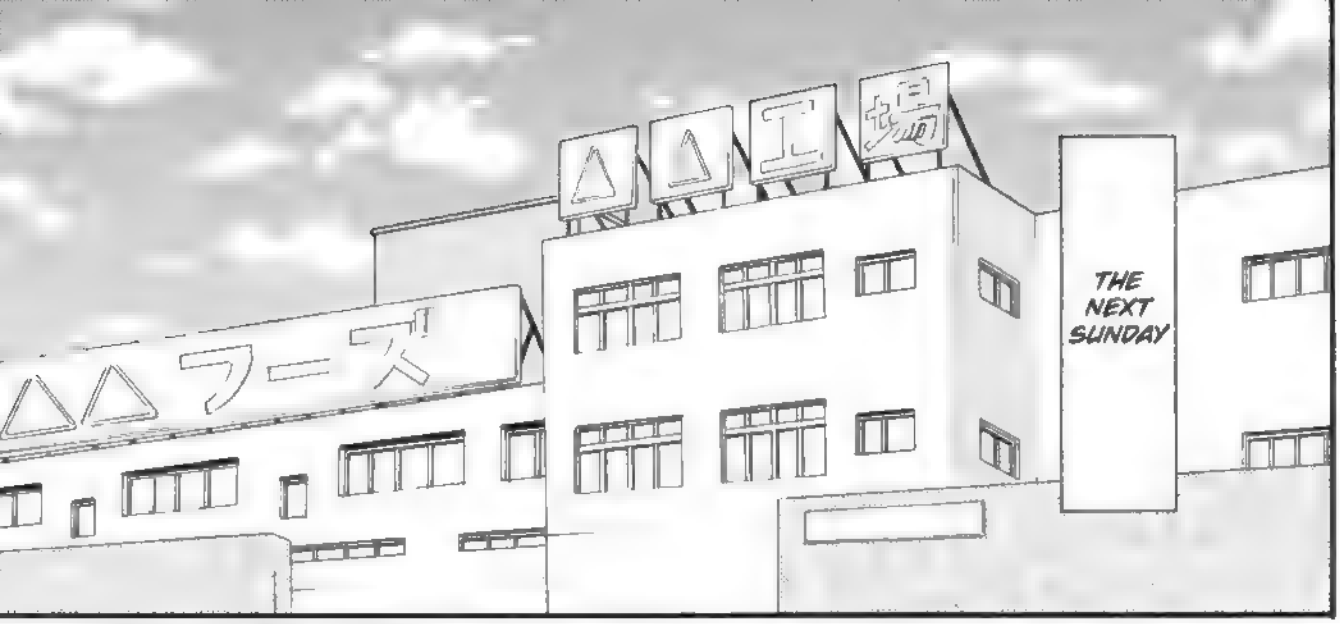
I KEPT BEGGING UNTIL SHE CAVED AND SAID I COULD WORK THERE FOR A DAY...
YOU'LL JUST BE GETTING IN THEIR WAY, AND YOUR STUDIES COME FIRST! SO ONE DAY! THAT'S IT!
'ω'

U-UM, COULD I ASK FOR A FAVOR ...?
OHHH? WHAT IS IT?

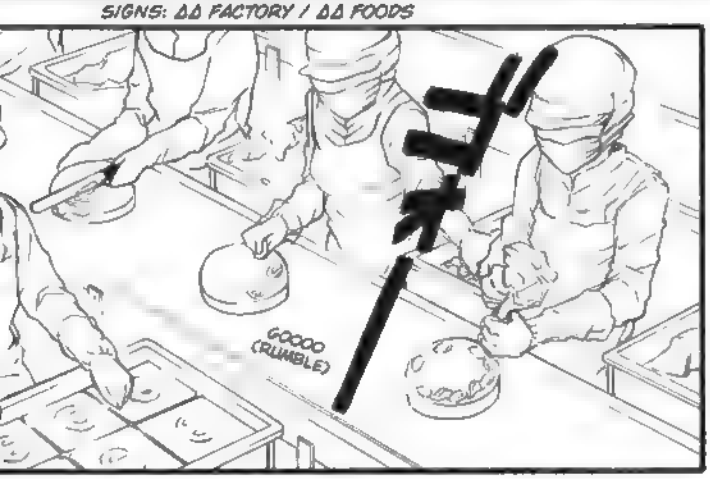
YOU'VE GOT SOME CREAM ON YOUR CHEEK.
EH!?
BURYU (SPLURT)

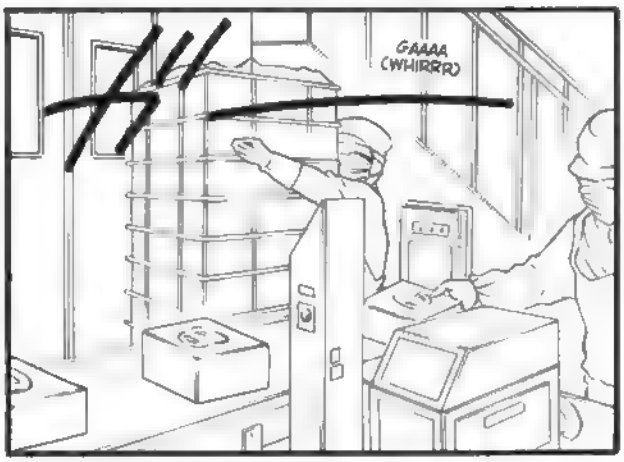
I WONDER WHAT KINDA PLACE IT IS... DO ANY COOL PEOPLE WORK THERE...?

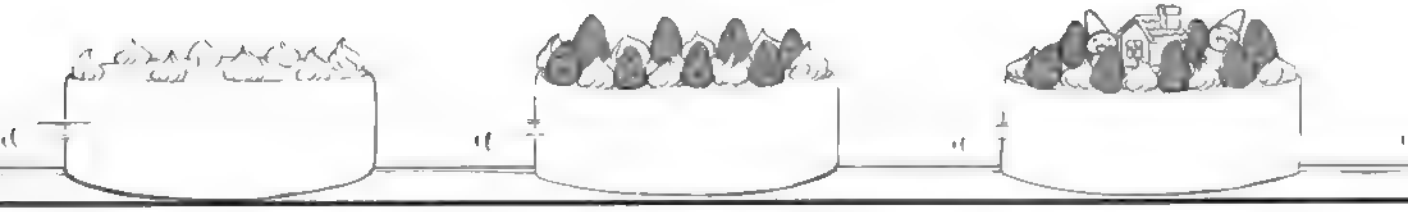
I CAN'T WAIT...
BU-UURURURU (BLORRRR)
N-NO ...! AH... AAHHH ...!
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO COVER YOU IN CREAM FIRST AND LICK YOU CLEAN FROM HEAD TO TOE.
EH!? BUT I DON'T HAVE CREAM ON ME TH—!? AH!!?
HERE, I'LL LICK IT OFF FOR YOU.

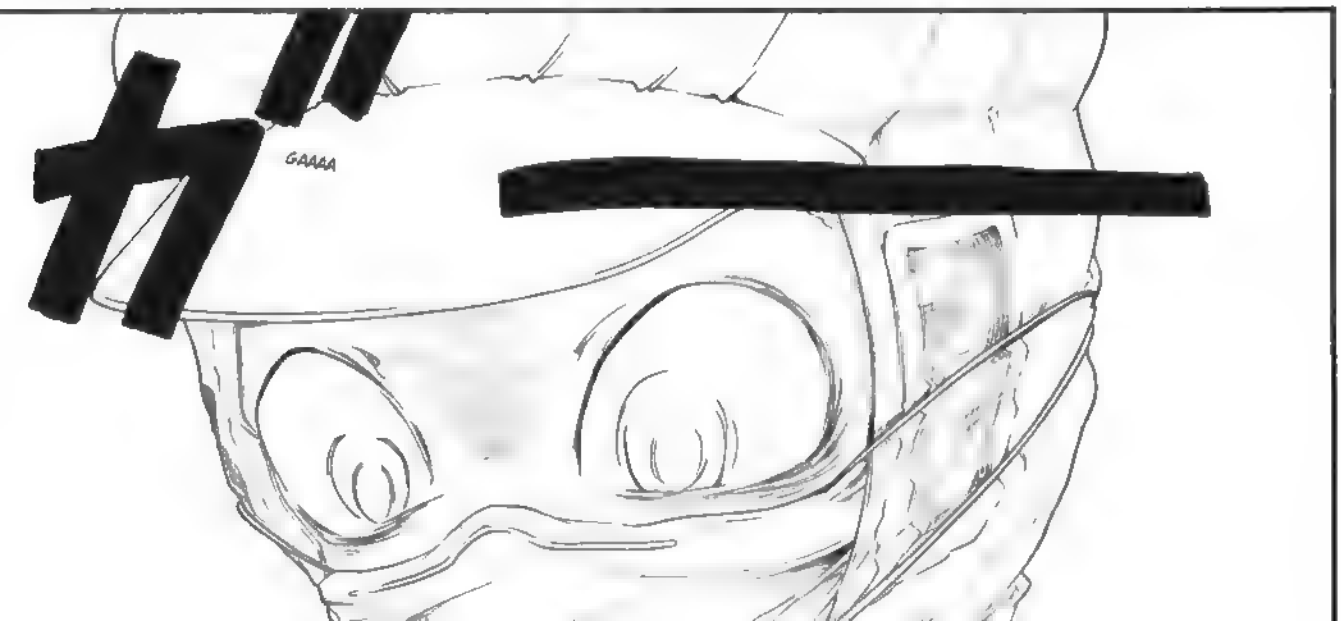


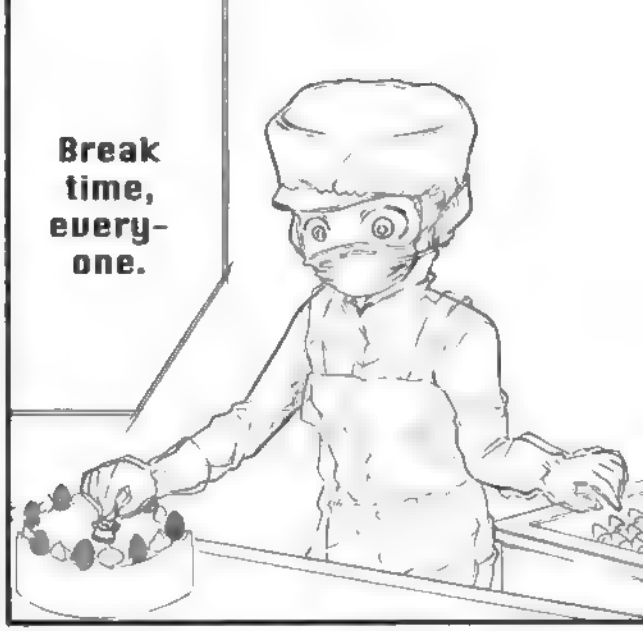
SIGNS: ΔΔ FACTORY / ΔΔ FOODS

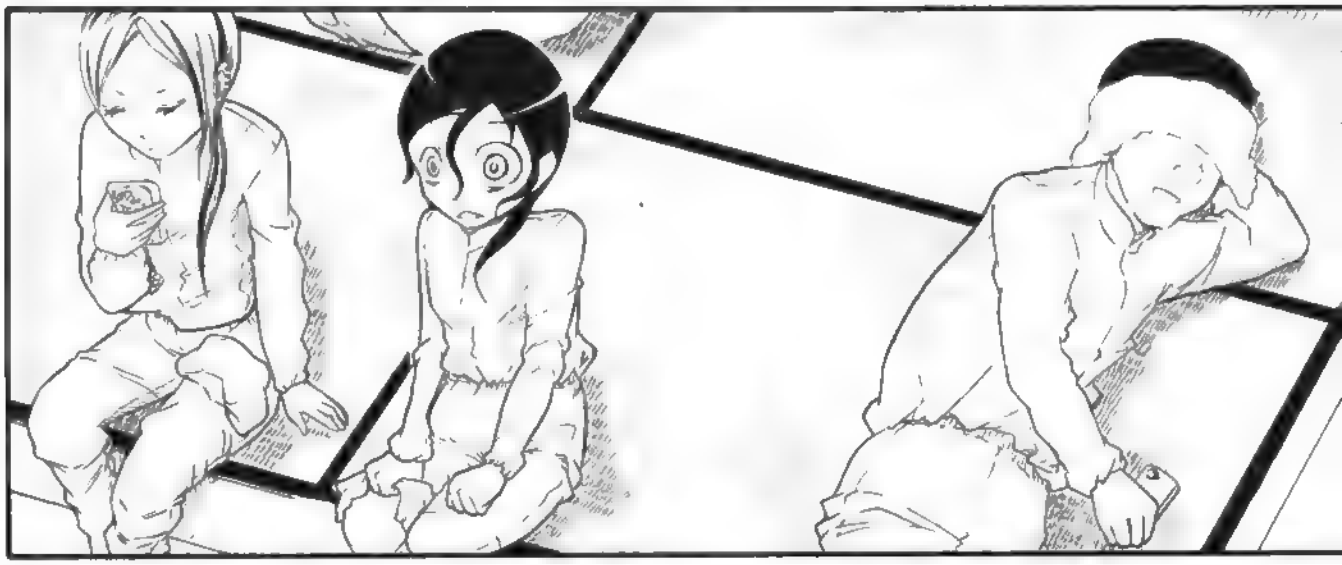




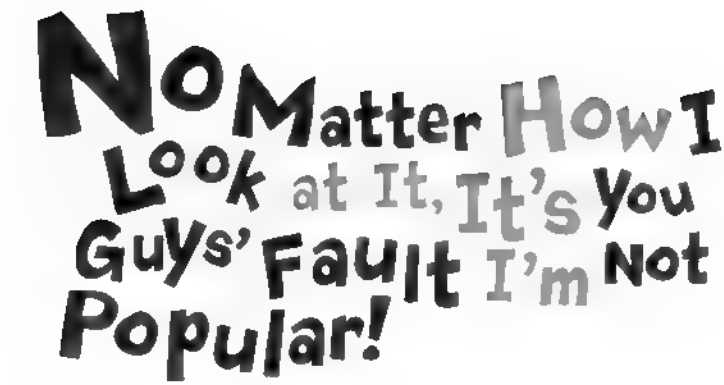




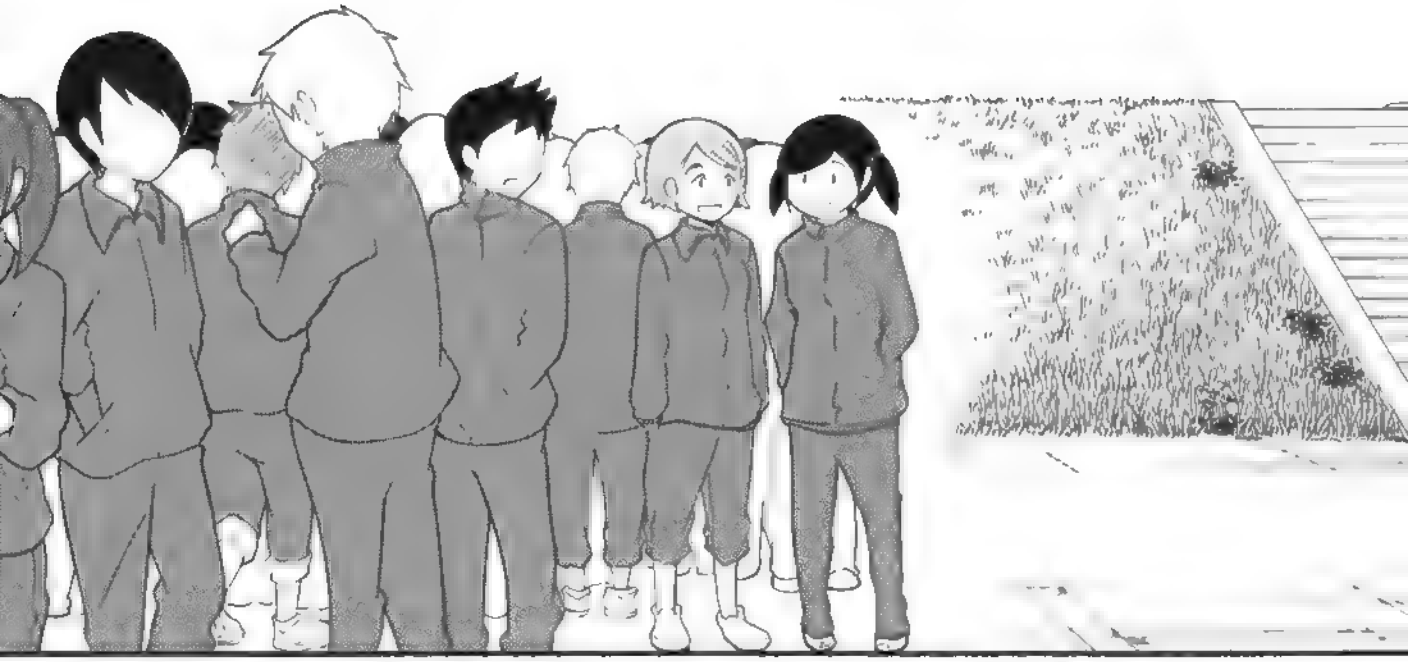

Break time, everyone.

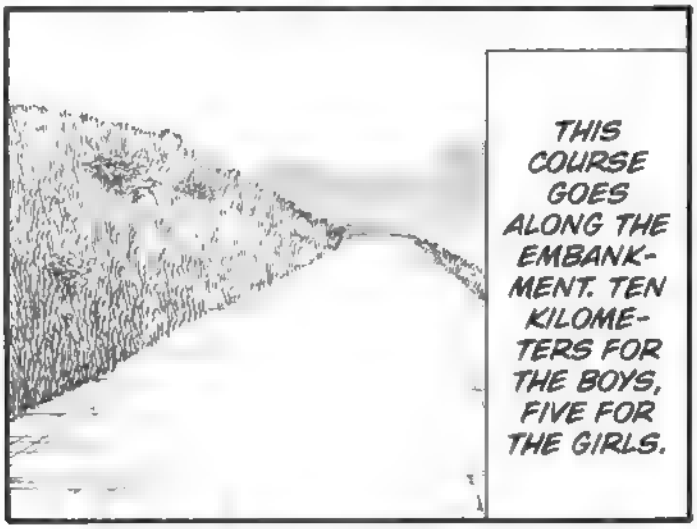


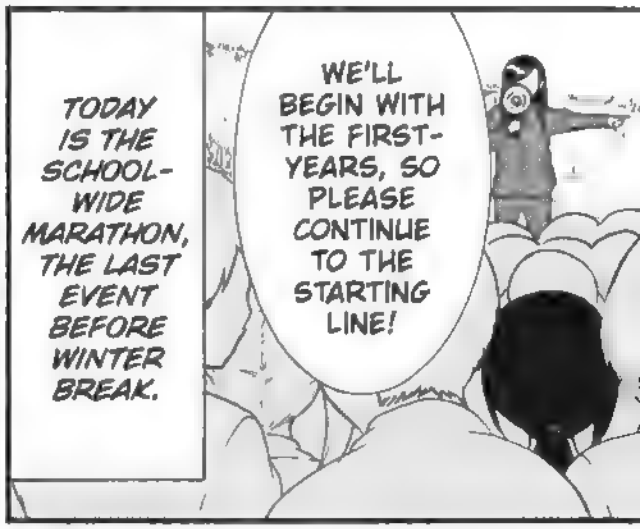
WELL... WE ARE MAKING CAKES, BUT...


No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

FAIL 30: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL RUN.




THIS COURSE GOES ALONG THE EMBANKMENT. TEN KILOMETERS FOR THE BOYS, FIVE FOR THE GIRLS.


TODAY IS THE SCHOOL-WIDE MARATHON, THE LAST EVENT BEFORE WINTER BREAK.
WE'LL BEGIN WITH THE FIRST-YEARS, SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO THE STARTING LINE!

TO BE HONEST, I KINDA LIKE MARATHONS.

GONNA CUT OUT EARLY ...?
MAN, I'M BEAT...

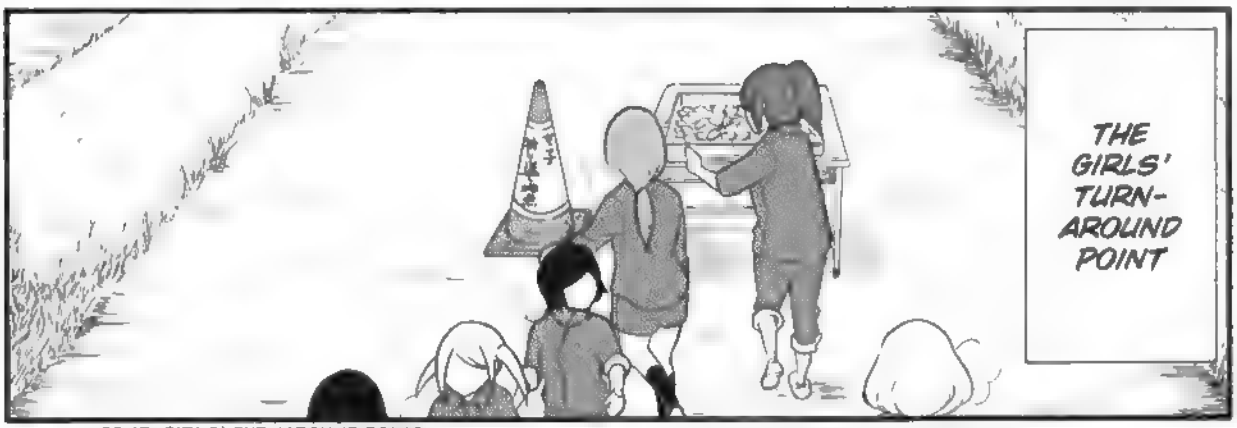
MOKOCCHI, YOUR MOVES ARE WRONG!
THAT'S THE KAZU DANCE!
KUI (JERK)
INTERPRETIVE DANCE
I HAVE ONLY BAD MEMORIES OF THEM.
DO (BONK)
OF COURSE, I DETEST PLAYING SPORTS.
MOKO-CCHI!?
SOFTBALL
SURE.
MOKOCCHI, TODAY'S THE MARATHON. WANNA RUN WITH US?
MIDDLE SCHOOL
IN FOURTH GRADE, I PLACED TENTH PLACE OUT OF THIRTY-SIX.
BUT THE MARATHON'S ANOTHER MATTER. IT'S THE ONLY CONTEST IN WHICH I CAN PERFORM ABOVE THE AVERAGE.
10
MOKO-CCHI!?
DO (WHOOSH)
THEN I LEFT THEM IN THE DUST WITH A FAST BREAK AT THE 200-METER MARK...

UGH, I DUNNO! I REALLY DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP RUNNING TO THE END!
YOU'LL BE FINE! LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST.
WELL, IN ANY CASE, THE MARATHON IS MY SPECIALTY.
HEH, THERE WAS A GUY LIKE THAT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL... CAME IN DEAD LAST WITH EVERYONE HAVING TO CHEER HIM ON TO MAKE IT TO THE FINISH LINE.
YOU CAN DO IT!
KSHEE! KSHEE!
WAAH!!
ALMOST THERE!
WAAH!!
WHAT IS THIS, THE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR TELEVISION CHARITY RUN...? I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE PEOPLE CHEER ME ON THAT WAY. IT'S JUST TOO PATHETIC.
OKAY, GET READY!
I MEAN, FINISHING THE RACE LIKE THAT SHOWS YOU'RE WAY OUT OF SHAPE...
GO (CHUG) GO
SO I DOWNED DAD'S YU●KER AND LITTLE BRO'S SPORTS DRINK TO MAKE EXTRA-SURE I'D HAVE THE STAMINA.

I'VE GOT ALL MY BASES COVERED!
GET SET !!
PAAN (BLAM)

...A STITCH IN MY SIDE...
...ISN'T LIKE...
AND THIS...
MY TUMMY HURTS ...!?
IT'S LIKE I'M ABOUT TO SHIT MYSELF!
I'M SURE I SAW SOME PORTA-POTTIES BACK AT THE STARTING LINE...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
ちら
DO I BAIL NOW AND GO BACK AND HIT THE BATH-ROOM?
IT'S ALL DAD AND LITTLE BRO'S FAULT FOR KEEPING RANDOM CRAP IN THE FRIDGE ...!!
IS IT 'COS I DRANK TOO MUCH LIQUID THIS MORNING ...?

I'LL TOUGH IT OUT!
NAH, IT'D BE EMBAR-RASSING TO DROP OUT THIS EARLY.
.....
I'LL WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE DEMON TO SETTLE DOWN.
DON
BAM
DON
THE PAIN COMES IN WAVES. IF I CAN JUST RIDE IT OUT...
NN?
HFF!
TOUGH IT OUT!
HFF!
TOUGH IT OUT!
YES! THEY'RE GONE!!
PAA (BEAM)



CONE: GIRLS' TURNAROUND POINT

NO, NOT AGAIN ...
BEKI (SNAP)
GUH ...!
BAKI
G (CREAK)
G
DON
G
NOT THE DEMON .....!

WHERE'M I GONNA FIND A TOILET ON AN EMBANK-MENT ...?

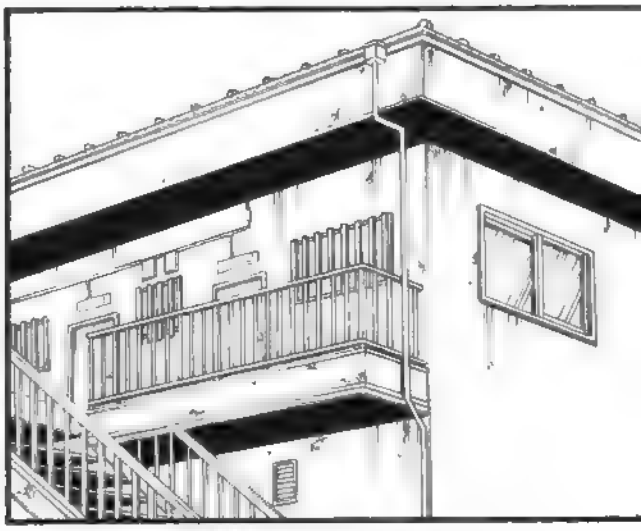
AND IT'S WIDE OPEN FOR ALL TO SEE, SO I CAN'T JUST GO SQUAT IN THE FIELD...

DAMMIT! IF ONLY I'D DROPPED OUT BACK THERE...
TH-THIS IS BAD. I DON'T THINK I CAN HOLD IT...

?
FURA
FURA (WOBBLE)

...!?

BUT ASKING A STRANGER FOR THEIR BATHROOM IS...
AT THIS POINT, MY ONLY OPTION IS ASKING TO USE THE TOILET AT SOMEONE'S HOUSE...



HERE I AM, A REAL LIVE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL!!

IF I WERE THEM, I DEFINITELY WOULDN'T WANNA LET ME IN!

THINK ABOUT IT FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW!!
NO, WAIT! ...IF I WERE THEM!?

THEY'D BE GETTING TO HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL TAKE A DUMP IN THEIR OWN HOME!!
WHO KNOWS, SOME OF 'EM MIGHT EVEN PAY ME FOR THE PRIVILEGE!!

NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF! I SHOULD THINK OF MYSELF AS A SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE!!
PINPOOON! (DING-DONNING)
BOTH PARTIES STAND TO BENEFIT. IN BUSINESS TERMS, IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION!

……
DO (THUMP)
C'MON! PLEASE BE HOME ...!!
GACHA (CLACK)

WHAT IS IT?
YES?
UM, UH...
...S-SORRY, BUT...
...MAY I USE YOUR BATH-ROOM ...?
WHAT IF I MAKE NOISES OR LEAVE A STINK...?

IT'S NO GOOD. I'M TOO NERVOUS TO GO...
=FLUSHH=
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
WHAT'S A HOT GUY DOING HOME ON A WEEKDAY ...?
I WOULDN'T GIVE A DAMN IF HE WAS UGLY...

YOCHI
よち
よち
YOCHI (TOTTER)

YOCHI
よち
YOCHI
よち
...SO AS NOT TO PROVOKE IT...
...LITTLE BY LITTLE...
...STEP BY STEP...
SLOWLY...

WHEW!
WHEW!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MARATHON ANYMORE... I'M DEAD LAST BY A WIDE MARGIN BY NOW...

WHEW!
WHEW!

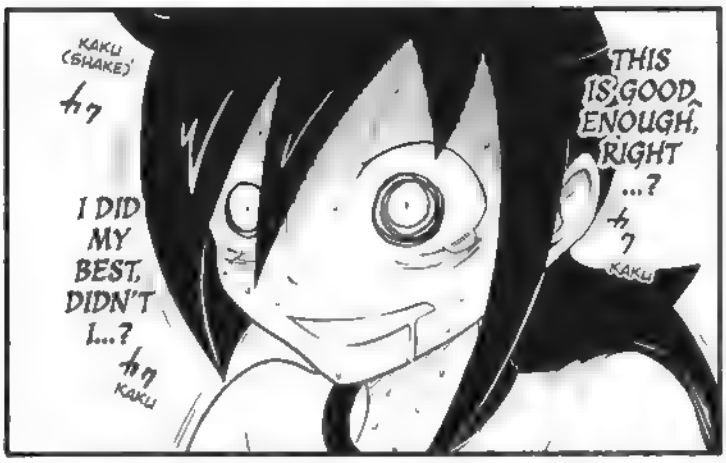
GOAL
...THE FINISH'S IN SIGHT. JUST A BIT MORE...
YES... AT LAST...
TO THOSE TOILETS ...!!
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE START.

KEEP GOING TO THE TOILETS WAITING BEYOND...
NO NEED TO RUSH... THAT'S NOT THE REAL GOAL...
WHEW!
WHEW!

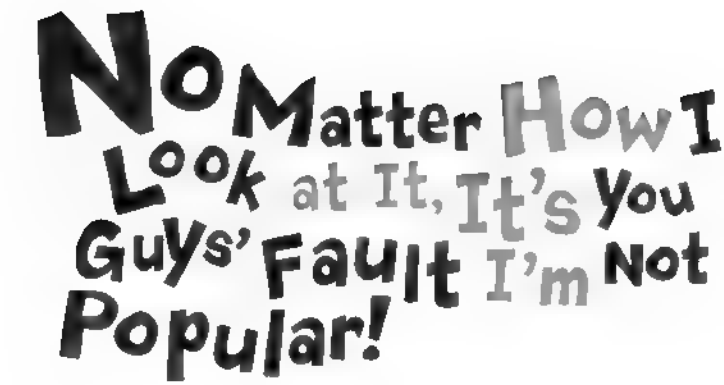
EEP! WHEW !!?
BIKUU (JOLT)
YOU CAN DO IT!!

KEEP GOING!
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SUPPORT ME, THEN SHUT THE HELL UP!!
YOU SEWAGE SPEWED FROM THE SHITTER!!
OH MAN, THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!!! THAT STARTLED ME SO BAD, I NEARLY LOST CONTROL OF MY SPHINCTER ...
GOAL
YOU REALLY GAVE IT YOUR ALL!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS!
PACHI
PACHI (CLAP)
I'M NOT DONE YET. MY GOAL LIES AHEAD!...
SHUT YOUR TRAP ...!
YOU MADE IT TO THE END! GOOD JOB.
386

ZURAAA (CROWD)
ズラー


KAKU (SHAKE)
I DID MY BEST, DIDN'T I...?
KAKU
THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH, RIGHT ...?
KAKU

MAYBE I CAN PUT THE "GO" IN GOAL RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW ...?


No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

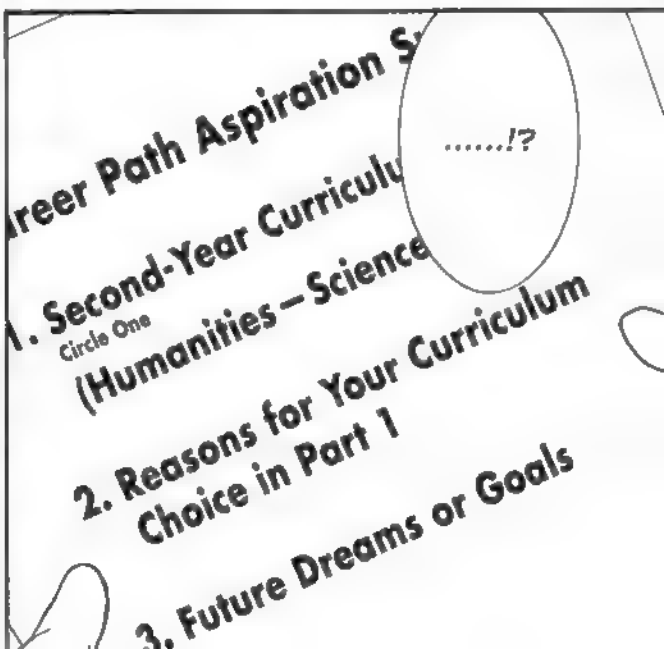
IT'S WINTER BREAK, BUT I'M NOT ENJOYING MYSELF AT ALL.
I MEAN, TODAY IS THE 22ND...
FAIL 31: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL BE DELUSIONAL.
IT IS NOW WINTER BREAK.
20●●
Report Card
XX Senior High School
...THIS YEAR WILL BE OVER NINE DAYS FROM NOW.
IN SHORT...
10:15 PM 12/22 (SAT)
...AND THEN ONE WEEK AFTER THAT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE.
TWO DAYS FROM NOW'S XMAS EVE...
...IF ONLY I'D TRIED HARDER...
ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL... NO, DURING SUMMER BREAK... AT THE START OF SECOND TERM... OR AT THE VERY LEAST, A MONTH AGO...
ONE WHOLE YEAR...
WHAT THE HELL'VE I BEEN DOING...?

ALL I CAN DO IS CREATE NEW HISTORY... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CHANGE WHAT'S ALREADY HAPPENED...
NO, IT'S TOO LATE TO THINK THAT WAY. I CAN'T START REGRETTING THE PAST NOW!!
I'LL JUST WANNA DIE!

GOSO (DIG)
GOSO
LET'S START WITH HOME-WORK ...
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN WITH THE TIME I HAVE LEFT! THE YEAR'S NOT OVER YET!

DWELLING ON THE PAST ISN'T THE KEY.
THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE'S WHERE IT'S AT.

CAREER PATH... FUTURE GOALS... YES, THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED!


reer Path Aspiration S
1. Second-Year Curriculu
Circle One
(Humanities—Science
2. Reasons for Your Curriculum Choice in Part 1
3. Future Dreams or Goals
.....!?

GOING BY MY BEST SUBJECTS, IT'S GOTTA BE HUMANITIES...
NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS WRITERS OR CHARACTERS BETTER THAN ME.
BUT I'LL TRY GETTING A SECOND OPINION, JUST FOR CONFIRMATION.
Yuu Naruse
HELLO?
MOKOCCHI, WHAT'S UP?
HUH? CAREER PATH? I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
YOUR SCHOOL HAS YOU DOING THAT ALREADY? WOW.
AH! YEAH, IT'D HAVE TO BE HUMANITIES.
OH! AND THEN THERE'S THAT! YOUR BIG DREAM FOR THE FUTURE, MOKOCCHI...

YOU'RE GONNA BE AN ARMS DEALER!

YOU WERE ALWAYS READING UP ON WEAPONS DURING BREAKS.
Military Magazine
ARMY
NIGHT STALKERS
WORLD SPECIAL FORCES

LIKE TO●-NEKO?
ARMS DEALER?
I'M GONNA BE JAPAN'S FIRST FEMALE ARMS DEALER.
BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
RE-MEM-BER?

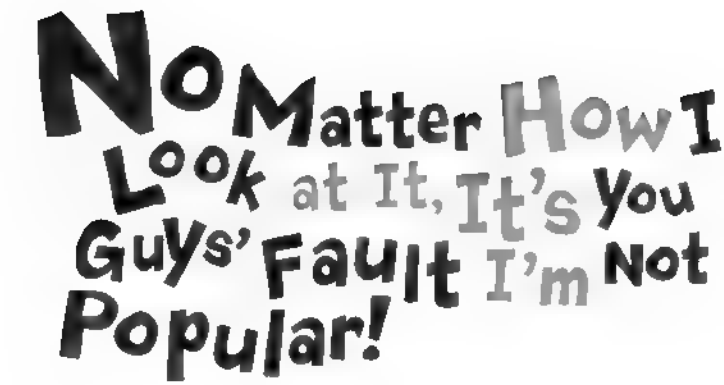
YOU'D SAY STUFF LIKE...
FRANKLY, I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER SECOND-YEAR WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT ANTI-MATERIEL RIFLES THAN ME...
CAN YOU?

I DIDN'T REALLY GET IT, BUT YOU KNEW AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT THEM.
IF I WERE IN THAT DISPUTED TERRITORY, I'D STORM 'EM WITH A LOAD OF RPGS.
RPGS? LIKE, VIDEO GAMES?
SOCIAL STUDIES WORLD MAPS

SEEING YOU LIKE THAT, I JUST COULDN'T GET OVER HOW AMAZING YOU WERE.
BUTSU (MUTTER)
YOU ALSO TALKED TO YOURSELF A LOT.
BUTSU
YEAH, ONCE I'M A WORLD-CLASS ARMS DEALER... PICKING THE RIGHT BODYGUARDS WILL BE CRUCIAL...
DO I GO WITH DELTA, SEALS, SAS...?
OH, SURE, THAT'S OKAY. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, MOKOCCHI? YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
"HERE'S SOMEONE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL WHO'S ALREADY MADE SUCH CLEAR PLANS FOR HER FUTURE."
GARA (SHHNK)
PIRON (BEEP)
Call Ended

I DIDN'T WANNA DWELL ON THE PAST...
...SO WHY'S THE PAST COMING BACK TO HAUNT ME DEAD!!?

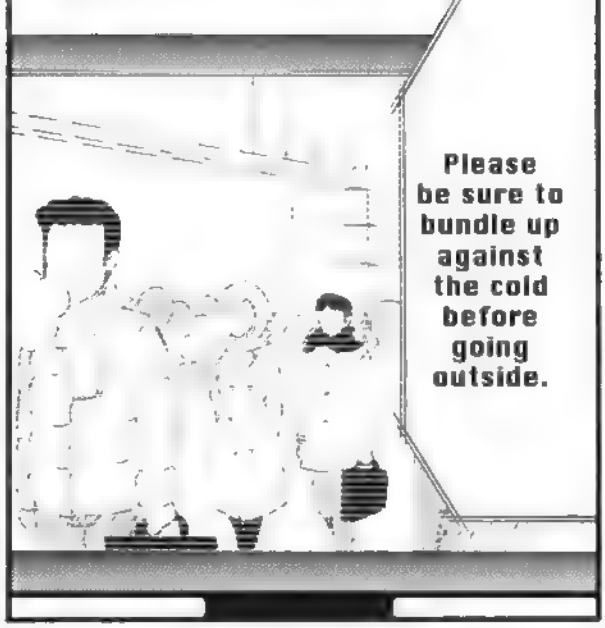
PLEASE JUST GET ME TO THE NEW YEAR ALREADY!
PLEASE LET THE PAST FADE AWAY ASAP!!
GIMME A BREAK! FOR SOMEONE WITH SUCH BAD GRADES, WHY IS YUU-CHAN SO GOOD AT REMEMBERING WORTHLESS CRAP!? DAMMIT!!


No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

FAIL 32: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO THE YEAR'S ENDING.

GYU (HUG)
HOKA (WARM)
WEATHER CAM
Today will be the coldest day of the year, with snow forecast for even the Kanto region.
TORODON (DROWNING)
AH, BLISS...

...GIVES ME SUCH PROFOUND JOY.
JUST WATCHING THEM FROM MY SNUG, WARM NEST...


Please be sure to bundle up against the cold before going outside.

HRN?
UGH, DO I HAVE TO...?

TOMOKO! COME HERE FOR A SEC!
YOU CORPO-RATE SLAVES ...!
GET TO WORK!
HEH HEH HEH...
WORK, WORK...

HERE, CLEAN THE TUB.
WHAT IS IT?
HOKA
HOKA

HOKA
ほの
ZURU (DRAG)

GOSHI (SCRUB)
ゴシ
GOSHI
ゴシ

I WANT TO GET THE MAJOR CLEANING DONE TODAY, SO HELP ME OUT, OKAY?
HUNH!?

IT'S NOT MEANT FOR KIDS, GEEZ ...!
DAMN... THIS IS NEET (MAID) WORK.

EH!? HANG ON!
NEXT, GO WASH THE WINDOWS.

AH! YOU'RE DONE? THANK YOU.
FINALLY DONE. NOW TO GET BACK UNDER THE KOTATSU...
WHEW.

AS I RECALL, YOU SAID YOU HAD TO STUDY FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS AND COULDN'T HELP, SO TOMOKI DID ALL THE CLEANING IN YOUR PLACE.
GUH!?
YES, AND HE DID. LAST YEAR.
T—
TOMOKI COULD HANDLE THAT...
NO BUTS. THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT TODAY. TOMOKI'S CONSCIENTIOUS AND TAKES CARE OF HIMSELF AND HIS THINGS!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BIG SISTER!
B—
BUT ...
HE HAS ENTRANCE EXAMS THIS YEAR, SO YOU'RE GOING TO DO YOUR BIT AND HIS.
AH!? DON'T YOU WALK AWAY FROM ME!
BA (WHIP)
ば
HE CLEANS HIS ROOM, AND LATELY, HE EVEN MAKES HIS OWN LUNCH.

HUNH?
YOU JERK! WHY THE HELL DO YOU CLEAN YOUR OWN ROOM!!? JUST LET MOM DO IT!!
PISHA (SLAM)

DO YOU GET OFF ON HOUSE-WORK!? ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE THE PROTAGONIST IN A LIGHT NOVEL OR SOMETHING !?
AND NOW YOU'RE EVEN COOKING!

YOU'RE DISTURB-ING ME. GET OUT.
ARE YOU THAT INSENSITIVE TO A GIRL'S FEELINGS!? IS "HM? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?" GONNA BE YOUR RESPONSE TO EVERY-THING!!?

GO CLEAN! MOVE IT!
WHO CARES ABOUT YOUR EXAMS!?
HOW DARE YOU, MY DUMB LITTLE BROTHER, MAKE A FOOL OF MEEEE!!
ゴン
GON (BONK)
スキ
ZUKI
ズキ
ZUKI
LET'S DO THIS QUICK AND GET BACK TO THE KOTATSU...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP OUT ANYMORE. JUST ORGANIZE WHATEVER OF YOURS IS IN THE STORAGE ROOM.

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT! THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT!!
WHAT'S WITH HIM TRYING TO SHOW HIS BIG SISTER UP EVERY CHANCE HE GETS!? IS HE KE●SHI-ROU?

BUT, MAN, THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF HERE...
Tomoko ①
Tomoko ②

THAT CREEP... I'LL SHOW HIM HELL LATER.

UNTAN!♪
PAKA (CLAP)
UNTAN!♪

POI
TOSS. TOSS. TOSS.
POI (TOSS)
POI

THIS IS...

UHHH, NEXT, NEXT...
Scraps of Summer
Tomoko + Tomoki
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS ...?
PAKA (POP)

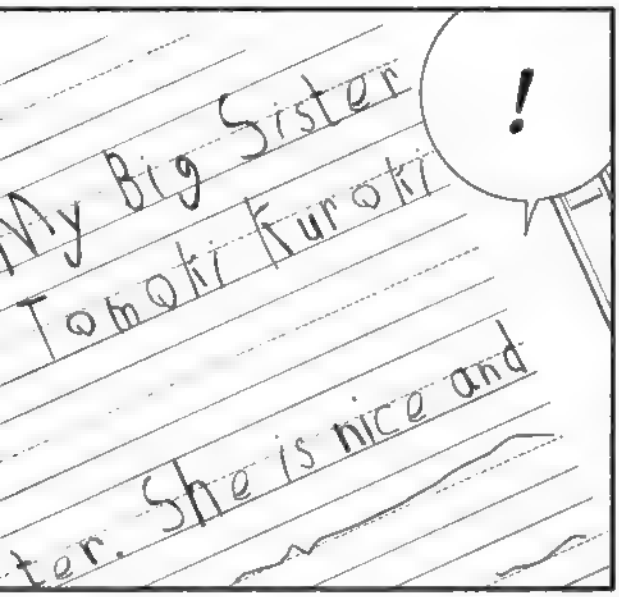
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
WHAT ARE THESE!? CICADA HUSKS!?

BLIN (FLING)
UWAA-AAAH—!!?

REALLY?
THESE SELL FOR ¥100 A POP!
OH! NOW I REMEMBER... I COLLECTED THESE WITH HIM WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.

REALLY, NONE OF THIS IS WORTH A THING...
I SHOULD JUST GET RID OF EVERYTHING.

NO ONE WANTS THIS STUFF ANYWAY, EXCEPT MAYBE SHOKO-T●N...
I DON'T NEED MEMORIES OF THAT CUE BALL. I'LL THROW 'EM OUT LATER.
Tom
2



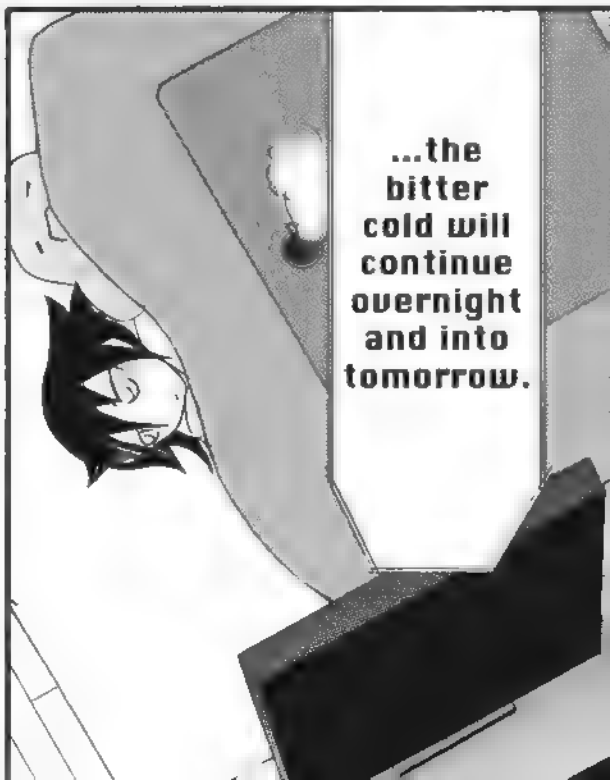
I love my big sister. She is nice and always plays with me. When I am in trouble, she helps me. She helps Mom and does my chores for me.

HYOI (PLUCK)
HYOI

.....
THAT'S WHY I REALLY LOVE MY BIG SISTER.

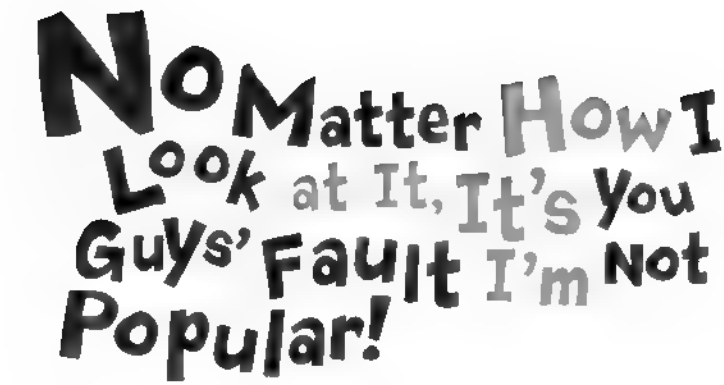
With snow accumulations of over five centimeters in the city...

GACHA (KACLICK)


...the bitter cold will continue overnight and into tomorrow.

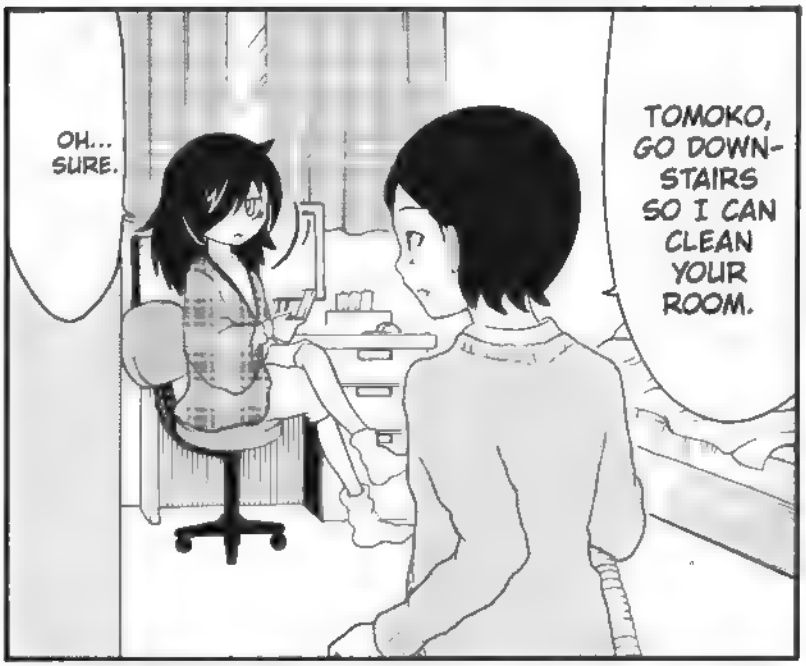
POI (TOSS)
ほか HOKA
ほか HOKA (WARM)
ZUBU
GYU (SQUISH)
GYU
ZUBU (SHLFF)
ZU
ZU
ZU (SSST)
BRR... COLD ...
BURU (SHIVER)

...YOU AGAIN? GIMME A BR...
HOKA (WARM)
GARA (SHHNK)
BATAN (SHUT)
YOU CAN BOR-ROW THAT.
HOKA
AAGH!?
HOSU (WHUMP)
WHAT'S THIS THING ...?
GROSS...
!

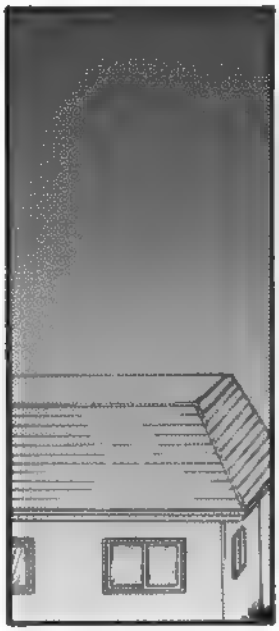

No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

SPECIAL CHAPTER 2

CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 23rd
Where: Nikkaku BBQ
Meet at the station.
When: 1:00 PM~whenever!
Fee: ¥3,000
Contact: Okada
MIXI xxxx
LINE xxxx
Skype xxxx
WE DIDN'T GET TO HAVE A BASH AFTER THE CULTURE FEST AND STUFF, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD HANG OUT SINCE IT'S FINALLY BREAK!



GAME: ANIMAL DOUBLE-CROSSING

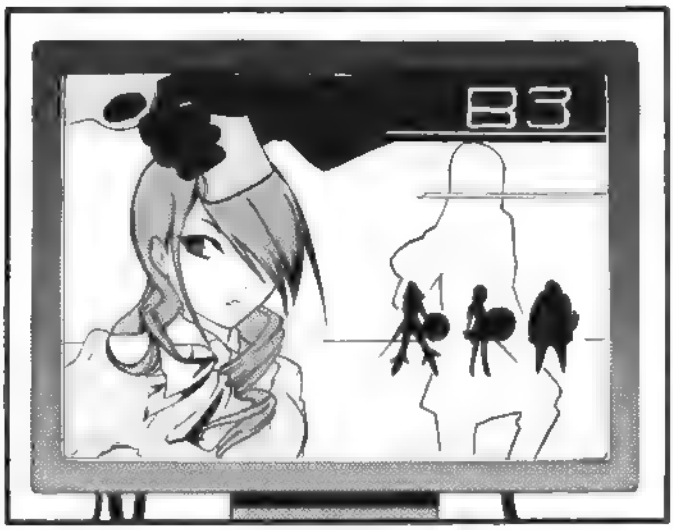


HUH!? WHY?
HERE'S SOME MONEY, TOMOKO.
I REALLY WASN'T PLANNING ON GOING ...
AREN'T YOU GETTING TOGETHER WITH YOUR CLASS-MATES ON THE 23RD?
OH...
UHUM ...
YEAH ...
THE PLEATHER PANTS AND BLACK SWEATER I BOUGHT BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL OUGHTA DO THE TRICK.
MAYBE I'LL DO MY HAIR DIFFERENT TOO.
SINCE THEY PROLLY ALL THINK OF ME AS THE QUIET TYPE AT SCHOOL, I'LL GO WITH A COOL LOOK.
I DUNNO IF I WILL OR NOT... BUT IT WOULDN'T HURT TO HAVE AN OUTFIT READY...

NETO (GLOOP)

GOSO
GOSO (DIG)

GARA (SSHNK)

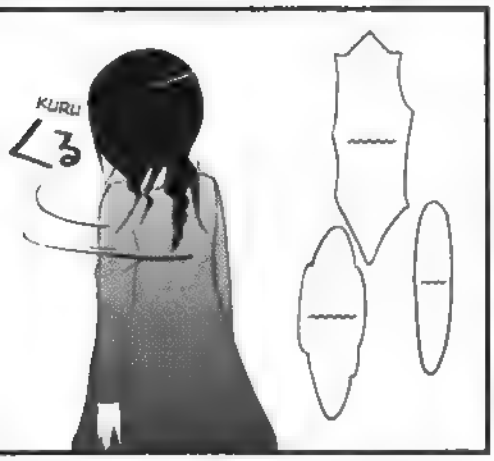

B3

SERIOUSLY! YOU'RE, LIKE, COOL ENOUGH TO TURN MY HEAD, AND I'M A GIRL!
Y-YOU THINK?
WOW, KUROKI-SAN, YOU LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN AT SCHOOL.
I WASN'T UP FOR IT BEFORE, BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO LOOK FORWARD TO IT A TEENY BIT...
GYU (SQUEEZE)
GYU

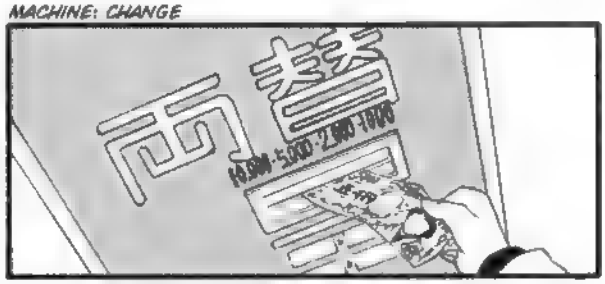
BETA
BETA (PLASTER)

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE COLD TODAY, SO WEAR YOUR MUFFLER.
TAKE ALONG A HAND WARMER TOO.
THE 23RD
I'M OFF!
OH, WAIT!
NICE AND WARM ...
DARN... I GOT HERE TOO EARLY...

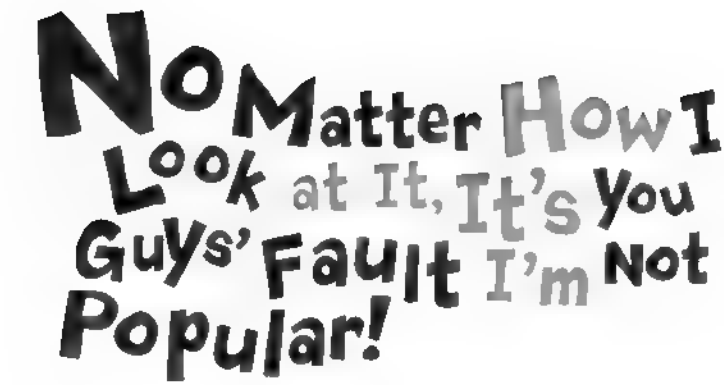
KURU (TURN)
I'LL GO KILL TIME SOMEWHERE AND GET BACK JUUUST BEFORE THE MEETUP.
!?
IF I GO OVER NOW, I'LL HAVE TO STAND THERE WITH THEM UNTIL EVERYONE ELSE ARRIVES.
DO
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI (BADUM)
HELLO THERE ...?
NO, WAIT, IT'S PAST MORN-ING...
GOOD MORN-IIING -?
G...
CLASS-MATES HEADING RIGHT FOR ME ...!?
SU (SWF)
FURA (STAGGER)



MACHINE: CHANGE



DID YOU HAVE FUN?
.....
YOU'RE BACK EARLY.
HUH ...?
YEAH ...
WELL ...
I'M HOME.
WEL-COME HOME.
At last, tomorrow is Christmas Eve.
GOOD, I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
YEAH..... IT WAS KINDA FUN.
A NICE, LONELY, EASY DAY...
I'LL SPEND ALL DAY TOMORROW BY MYSELF NORMALLY ...
I'M SO GLAD TODAY WASN'T CHRIST-MAS.
Snow should start falling overnight, so even the Kanto region may get a white Christmas.


No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

NEW YEAR

THE HELL... WHO'S TEXTING ME SO LATE ...?

BIKU (JOLT)
GA
GA (RRRR)
GA

CRAP... I WENT TO BED LIKE NORMAL...

1/1 12:02 AM
Yuu Naruse
Happy New Year, Mokocchi!
Hope it's a great one for both of us!
(`・ω・')/

FAIL 33: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL GREET THE NEW YEAR.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

HUH!?
TOMOKO, A NEW YEAR'S CARD CAME FOR YOU...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2014 1.1
OOOOH, THEY'LL SEND A NEW YEAR'S CARD FROM YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER? ¥500 PER CARD... SURE WHY NOT?
KACHI (CLICK)
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THAT...

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS AND HOW TO USE THEM

NOW, WHAT TO DO WITH THEM...
I KNOW! THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY FOR AGES!
HEH HEH HEH... ¥10,000, ¥5,000, ¥1,000... I'VE GOT FIFTY BILLS IN ALL.
IT'S MY BEST HAUL YET...
PERA (FLIP)
PERA
GARA (SSHNK)
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
?
!!?
PAAAN (SMACK)

SIBLING RIVALRY

H—
HAPPY NEW YEAR ...
HAPPY NEW YEAR, TOMOKO-CHAN.
KII-CHAN'S HERE.

CRAP... IT'S KINDA AWKWARD AFTER WHAT WENT DOWN OVER THE SUMMER.

KACHI カチ
KACHI カチ
KACHI カチ
KACHI (CLICK) カチ
KACHI カチ

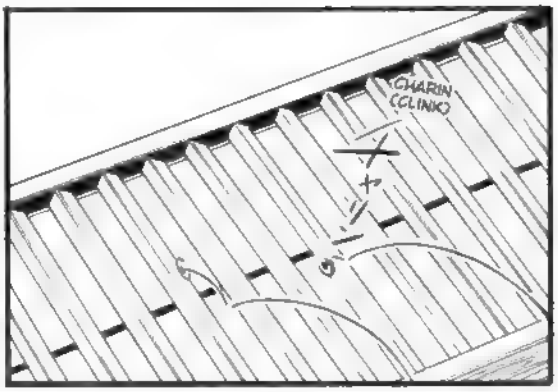
AFTER ALL, KIDS'LL ALWAYS COME WITH THEIR TAILS WAGGING IF YOU GIVE THEM MONEY ...
THE ¥1,000 EXPENDI-TURE WILL HURT, BUT WITH THIS, I'LL MAKE OUR PECKING ORDER CLEAR.

GU (CLENCH)
Now for's gift
GUESS I GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THIS TO TURN THINGS AROUND...

HERE, KII-CHAN! THIS IS FROM ME TO YOU!
A! NEW! YEAR'S! GIFT!
NO! YOU SHOULDN'T USE IT LIKE THAT!
IT'S YOUR PRECIOUS MONEY! YOU SHOULD USE IT FOR MORE IMPORTANT STUFF!!
THAT'S WHAT THEY GIVE US MONEY FOR!
AH! SORRY FOR YELLING. I'M NOT MAD AT YOU.
O...
O-OKAY...
SCOLDED WITH LOGIC BY A GIRL THREE YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME... I THINK I MIGHT CRY...

TEKU
TEKU (TROT)
TOMOKO-CHAN, HAVE YOU DONE YOUR NEW YEAR'S SHRINE VISIT?
NO, NOT YET.
THEN LET'S GO.
CORNER STORE
HUH?
HERE YOU GO, TOMO-KO-CHAN.
TOMOKO-CHAN, ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HUH? WELL, YEAH, KINDA...
OKAY, WAIT RIGHT HERE.
TEKU
TEKU
OH...! HANG ON, I'LL PAY YOU BACK.
IT'S FINE. I GOT NEW YEAR'S MONEY.
YEAH, BUT... SO DID I...
NO MORE BACK TALK!
IS IT GOOD?
YEAH...
IT HURTS...
MOGU (NIBBLE)

WISHES



IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, PLEASE AT LEAST MAKE EVERYONE ELSE RELATIVELY UNHAPPY. IF YOU CAN'T EVEN MANAGE THAT, FINE...BUT FORGET ABOUT MY RESPECT.....

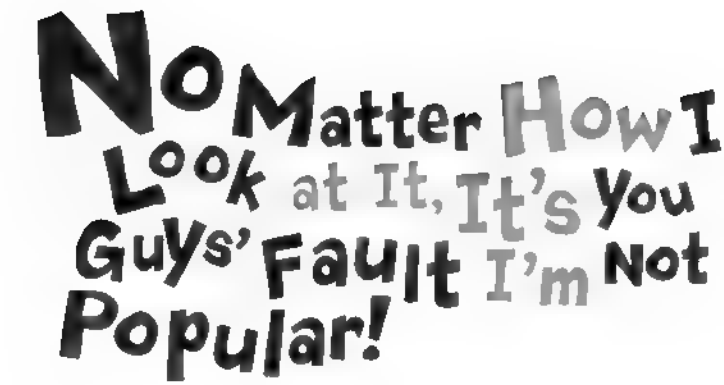
OKAY, SHRINE GOD, IF YOU'RE AT ALL COMPETENT, THEN PLEASE TRY MAKING ME HAPPY...

FIRST DREAM OF THE YEAR

PLAYING SOLO

GOOD TIDINGS

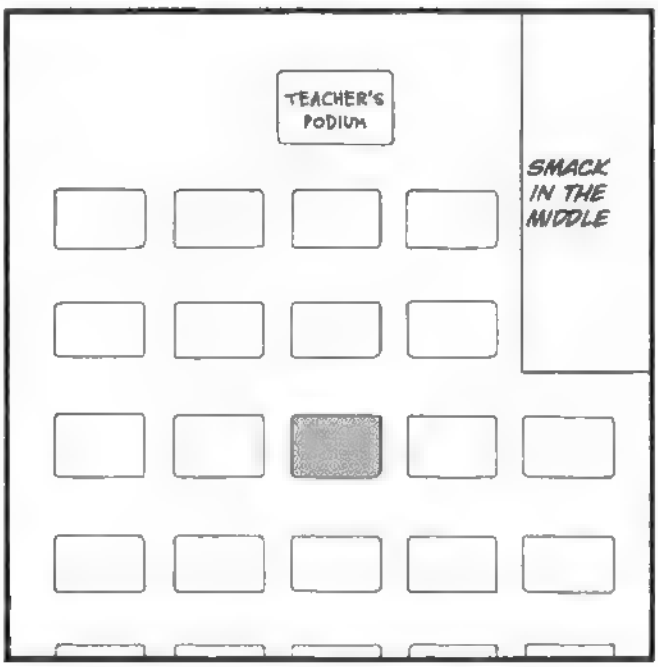
HAPPY NEW YEEEAR!
WHAT'S SO HAPPY ABOUT IT!? NOTHING AT ALL...
YOU TOO!
HI
GATA (CLATTER)
HAAAH... NEW YEAR'S WAS OVER IN A FLASH...
TODAY IT'S BACK TO THE SAME OLD CRAPPY LIFE...
AWW? STILL BUMMED THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND DUMPED YOU ON NEW YEAR'S?
DUH! WHAT KINDA QUES-TION IS THAT?
HAPPY NEW —!
WELL, IT'S TOTALLY NOT HAPPY FOR ME.
HI
GATA
SERVES YOU RIGHT, SUCKER!

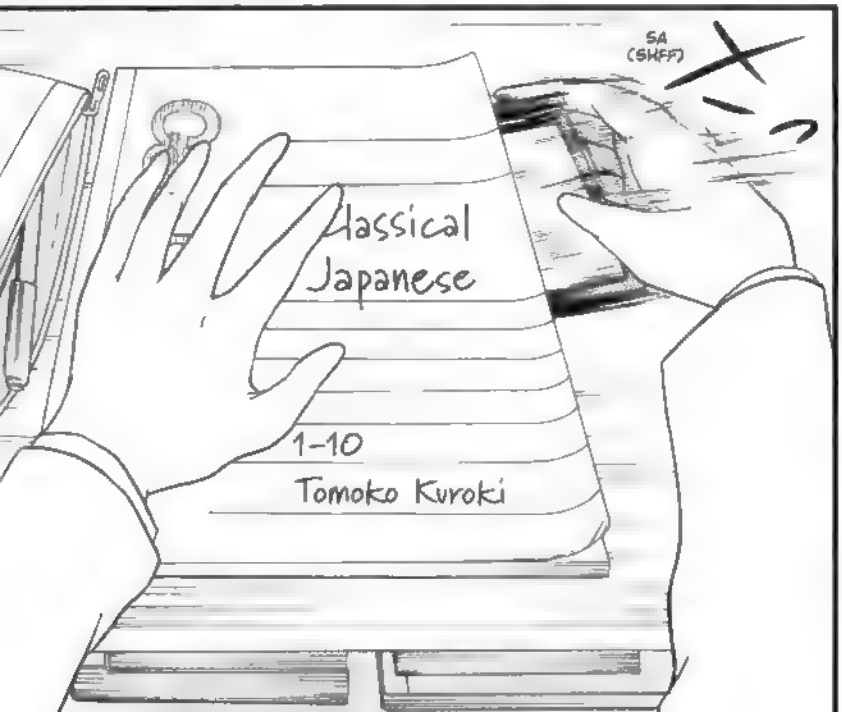

No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

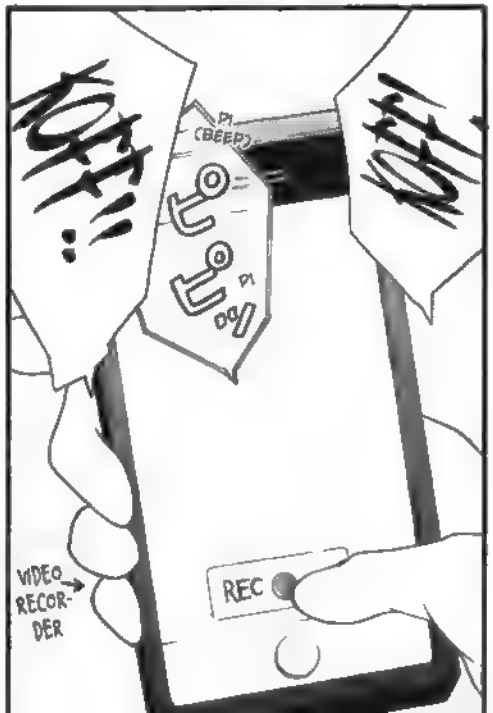
FAIL 34: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL STAND OUT.
SEAT CHANGE

ZAWA
ZAWA (CHATTER)
BREAK TIME

KOFF! KOFF!


TEACHER'S PODIUM
SMACK IN THE MIDDLE


SA (SHFF)
Classical Japanese
1-10
Tomoko Kuroki


KOFF!
PI (BEEP)
ピ
ピ
PI
DO
KOFF!
VIDEO RECORDER
REC

ZAWA
ZAWA
(CHATTER)
ZAWA

SA
(SWF)

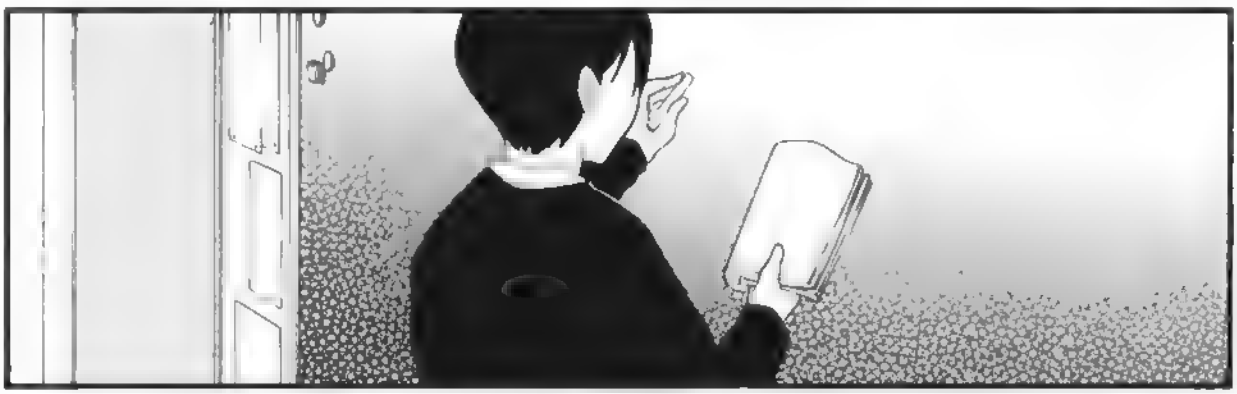
You catch yesterday's Am●-Talk?
Crap, I haven't done my career survey yeeet!
I'M IN A NEW SEAT, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYONE TALKING SHIT ABOUT ME...
GOOD...

THE NEXT BREAK

.....
COULD IT BE...?
AM I...
...GETTING THE "QUIT PAYING ATTENTION TO THINGS THAT AREN'T THERE" TREATMENT FROM THE CLASS?

...WHEN I'M RIGHT IN THEIR MIDST .....
WAIT UP...
...NO ONE'S TALKING ABOUT ME AT ALL...

KAAAN (CLANG)
KOOON (DONNNG)
KIIIN (DING)
OR WILL THIS TERM ALSO END WITH ME AS THE INVISIBLE GIRL...?
...BUT IT'S THIRD TERM. WHY NOT STOP WITH THE COUNTER-MEASURES AND JUST ACKNOWL-EDGE MY EXISTENCE ALREADY?
SU (SWF)
SURE, I HAVEN'T REALLY GONE AND TALKED TO ANYONE OR TRIED TO GET THEM TO NOTICE ME...



KYAAAH —!!?
BIKU (JOLT)

KARI (SCRITCH)
KARI

IS IT COMING THIS WAY!?
EEEK! EEEK!
IT'S HUGE!!
WHOA!? IT'S A COCK-ROACH!!

HERE'S MY ONE CHANCE TO GO FROM "LOW-KEY-SAN" TO "KUROKI-SAN" THIS TERM!
THIS IS IT!! THAT ROACH IS NOW THE CENTER OF THE CLASS'S ATTENTION, SO IF I GET RID OF IT, THEN I'LL BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION ...!

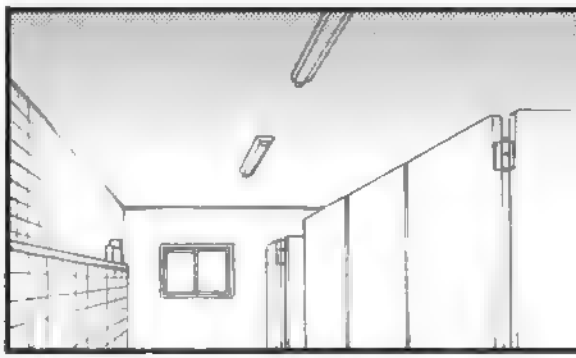
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HUMANS ARE MADE OF!
BRING IT ON, YOU ACCURSED TERRA-FORMAR!!
HI
IBA (WHOOSH)
TOMOKO KUROKI (JAPAN)
AGE: 15 YEARS
GENDER: FEMALE
"EARTH RANKING":
4,200,006,969TH PLACE
DESIRED PROCEDURE:
HYALURONIC ACID INJECTION

KYAH!
UWAH!?
KASA
KASA (SCUTTLE)
KASA
KASA

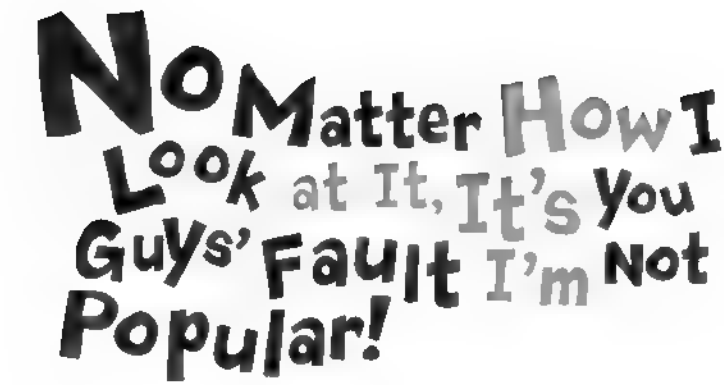
KU-RO-KI!!
THAT WAS AWE-SOME, KUROKI-SAN!
KURO-KI!!
YOU'RE SO COOL!!
KU! RO! KI!
DAN (STAMP)
PUCHUCHU (KERSQUISH)
ERRR, ANYWAY, WHY DON'T YOU GO CLEAN OFF YOUR SHOE?
SHIN (SILENCE)
.....HUH?
GARA (RATTLE)
JAAA (FSSH)

GATA
(CLACK)

AND THEIR VOICES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN MORE DISTANT ...
MAYBE I MADE TOO MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION ...? SUDDENLY I'M THE TOPIC OF EVERYONE'S CONVER-SATIONS...



Kuroki-san's quiet, but there's something totally off about her...
I mean, talk about creepy... Who stomps a bug like that...?

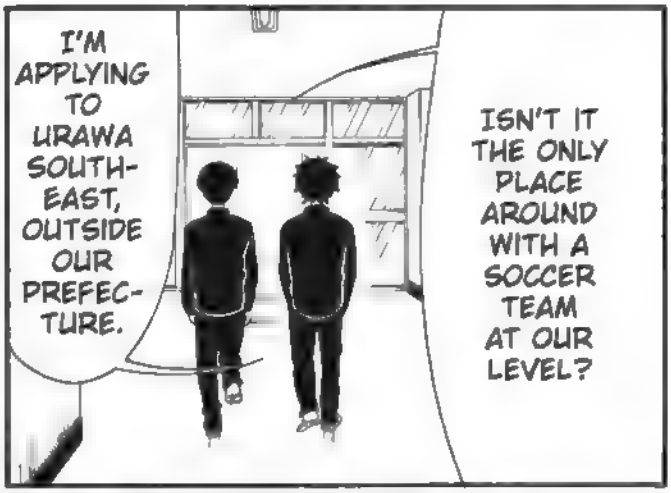

No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

WOULD YOU DROP BY THE POST OFFICE ON YOUR WAY AND—
.....
?
OH! TOMOKO, ARE YOU GOING OUT?
YEAH?
NEVER MIND, IT'S TOO RISKY.
SU (SWF)
HUH...? I'M FINE WITH JUST GOING TO THE POST OFFICE...
THIS IS TOMOKI'S HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM APPLICATION. MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT IT GETS SENT!
TEKU
TEKU (TROT)
WHY'S HE TRYING TO GET INTO A SCHOOL SO FAR AWAY?
SAITAMA.....? THAT'S, LIKE, IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...

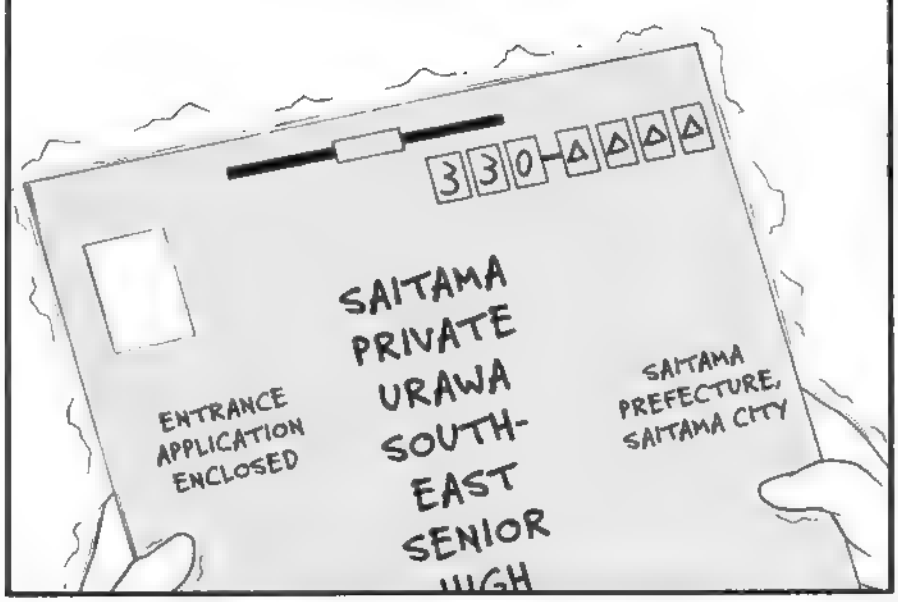
FAIL 35: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL MOTHER MY BROTHER.

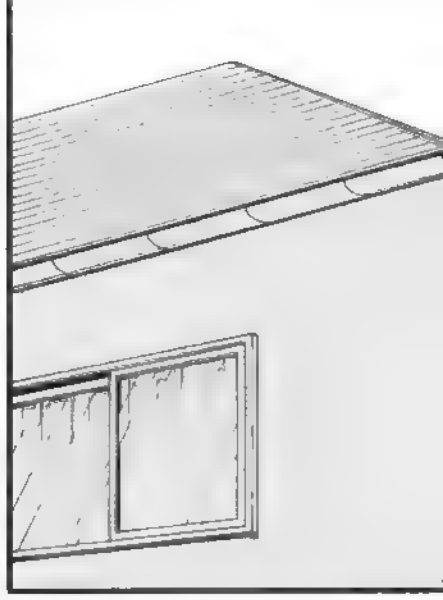
HOW COME YOU'RE TAKING THE NORMAL EXAM INSTEAD OF GETTING A REC FOR HARAMAKU?
YEAH... WELL, EVEN IF I GOT A REC, I DUNNO IF I'D GO THERE.

SIGN: MIDDLE SCHOOL



HARAJUKU PEDAGOGICAL ACADEMY
MAKUHARI SHUUEI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
(※"HARAMAKU" FOR SHORT)
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT: TOMOKO KUROKI


330-AAAA
SAITAMA PRIVATE URAWA SOUTH-EAST SENIOR
ENTRANCE APPLICATION ENCLOSED
SAITAMA PREFECTURE, SAITAMA CITY



KATA (SHUDDER)
WH-WHAT DO I DO.....?
KATA
KATA

...I PUT THE ENVE-LOPE IN MY BAG 'COS IT WAS GETTING IN THE WAY.
...I CAME ACROSS THIS CAT, AND I REALLY WANTED TO PET IT, SO...

UMM, THAT DAY... WHEN MOM ASKED ME TO GO BY THE POST OFFICE, ON THE WAY...

...AND THEN I CAME HOME WITH IT STILL IN MY BAG...
AFTER THAT, I WENT TO BOOK-OF...

TOMOKI'S EXAM TICKET HASN'T ARRIVED YET. YOU DID MAKE SURE TO MAIL HIS APPLICATION, RIGHT?
UH... HUH.
AH...
I-I THINK SO...
URK !!?
BA (WHAP)
GARA (SSHNK)
TOMOKO, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
SO MAYBE IF I COUGH UP THE TRUTH RIGHT NOW, I WON'T GET PUNISHED AS BAD!
HUNH!? WAIT, THIS PATTERN IS THE ONE THAT GETS ME SERIOUSLY CHEWED OUT ONCE I'M CAUGHT!!
BUT MAYBE IT'S POSSIBLE THE POSTAL SERVICE MESSED UP THE DELIVERY...
I-I DID! I DID MAIL IT!!
BIKUU (JOLT)
YOU "THINK SO" ...?
BA
OKAY, SO I FORGOT. SO WHAT?
SAITAMA PRIVATE URAWA SOUTH-EAST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
SAITAMA PREFECTURE, SAITAMA CITY
.....
NO, I DIDN'T MAIL IT.
TELL ME THE TRUTH. THIS IS SOME-THING VERY IMPOR-TANT.

GARA (SSHNK)
DON (THUMP)
adibas
I'M BACK.

HIC!
SNRF!
HIC!

I-I'M REAL SORRY ...
HIC!
HIC!
...A-AND NOW YOU C-CAN'T TAKE THE EXAM ...
HIC!
I-I FOR-GOT TO MAIL YOUR AP-PLI-CA-TION ...
I... I-I-I'M S-SOR-RY...

GATA (CLATTER)
JUST MEANS I HAVE TO FIND SOME-WHERE ELSE TO GO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S FINE?
NAH, IT'S FINE.
TOMOR-ROW, WE'LL GO BY THE SCHOOL, EXPLAIN THE SITUATION, AND ASK IF THEY'LL STILL LET YOU TAKE THE EXAM.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT. IT WAS MY FAULT FOR TRUSTING TOMOKO TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!? WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING!
.....
AH...! HEH HEH... SORRY AGAIN...
SU (SWF)
AH ...!
PISHA (SLAM)
GAAAN (CRUSHED)
SWA (SHOVE)

SO YOUR ONE OPTION IS HARAMAKU, RIGHT?
I DUNNO, MAN.
NOPE, THAT SETTLES IT. WE'RE NOT LETTING YOU GO ANY-WHERE ELSE.
SERIOUSLY, DUDE!? SHE FORGOT TO MAIL YOUR APP!?
BYE-BYYYE!
AWRIGHT! SINCE WE'VE GOTTEN OUR RECS ALREADY, WE CAN HELP YOU STUDY!
NAH, YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALL DUMBER THAN ME.
RIGHT ON. I CALL STUDY GROUP AT TAKE'S PLACE.
IF YOU GET IN TOO, TOMOKI, THEN WE CAN KEEP THE SAME LINEUP.

adibos

I'M HOME.
KUROKI

W-WELCOME HOME, T-TOMO-KUN...
HUNH ...?
AH, I'LL CARRY YOUR BAG TO YOUR ROOM FOR YOU.
OKAY, WHAT? WHY'RE YOU IN HERE?
AH ...
AUH ...
I-I JUST... WONDERED IF THERE WASN'T SOMETHING I COULD DO...
NO, THERE'S NOT. GET OUT.
URK... AH... WELL, MAYBE I COULD TUTOR YOU OR SOMETHING?

I'M BEGGING YOU. PLEASE JUST LEAVE.
I'M ALWAYS SLUTTED UP LIKE THIS AT SCHOOL AND GETTING SOME LEFT AND RIGHT...
...SO IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
YOUR BIG SISTER MAY COME ACROSS AS THE QUIET TYPE, BUT I'M ACTUALLY A TOTAL NYMPHO.
I'M FINE.
OKAY, HOW ABOUT ANY SEX ISSUES? I CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM FOR YOU.
わさ (WASA (SHIFT))
わさ (WASA)

YEAH, AND?
I- I'M SO SORRY THAT YOU CAN'T GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOL YOU WANTED TO GO TO 'COS OF MEEE!!

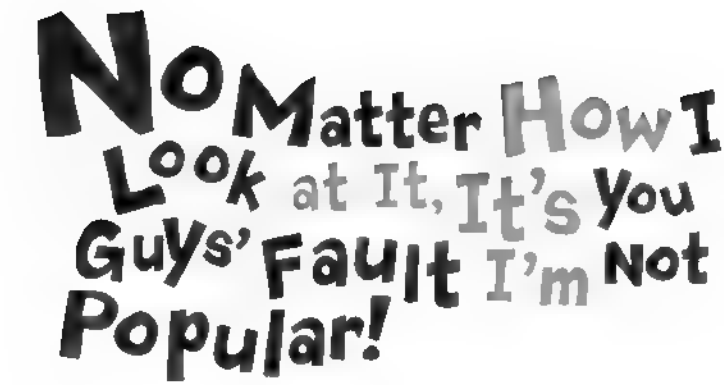
!?
MY HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS ARE MAJORLY LIMITED NOW, SO I GOTTA BE SERIOUS ABOUT STUDYING.

THIS IDIOT NEVER CHANGES ...
THAT MEANS YOU WON'T FORGIVE ME—

I DON'T CARE ANYMORE, SO JUST GET LOST, OKAY?
I APOLO-GIZED SO PLEASE FORGIVE MEEE!!

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO HOLD AGAINST YOU.
I'M GONNA GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOL I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON.
HAPPY NOW? THEN HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO YOUR OWN ROOM.
IT'S LIKE...YOU FORGETTING TO MAIL MY APP HELPED ME MAKE THE DECISION.
.....THE HELL!?
TCH!
YOU COULDA SPIT THAT OUT SOONER.

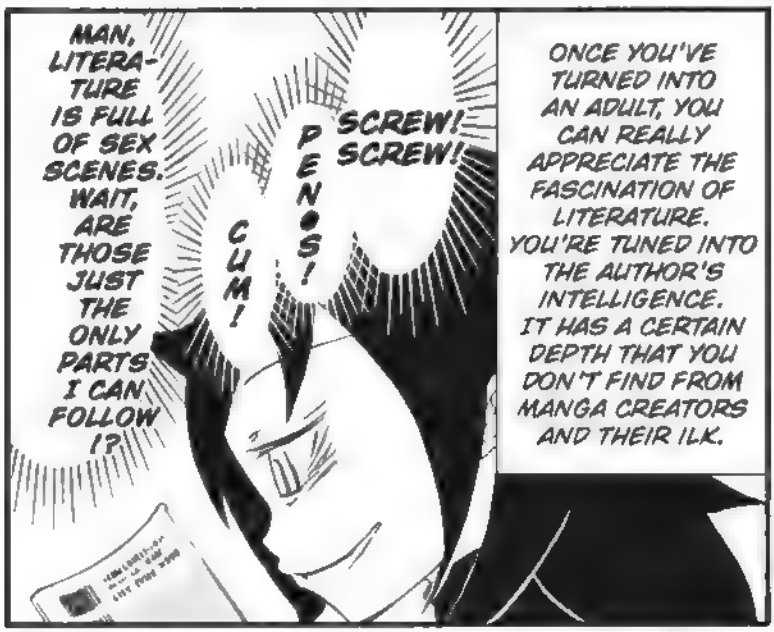
I MEAN, WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST PICK ONE SCHOOL, ANYWAY? WISHY-WASHY DUMB ASS.
I WAS ACTUALLY STARTING TO FEEL RESPON-SIBLE...
MOM LECTURED MY EAR OFF YESTERDAY ABOUT HOW I'D SCREWED UP YOUR FUTURE CAREER PLANS.
DO (WHAM)
HAPPY NOW? THEN HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO YOUR OWN ROOM.
TOMO-KUN STOPPED TALKING TO ME FOR QUITE A WHILE AFTER THAT, EVEN AT HOME.
GATA (RATTLE)
GACHI (CLICK)
GATA
JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, EVEN IF WE END UP GOING TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL, NEVER, EVER TALK TO ME THERE.

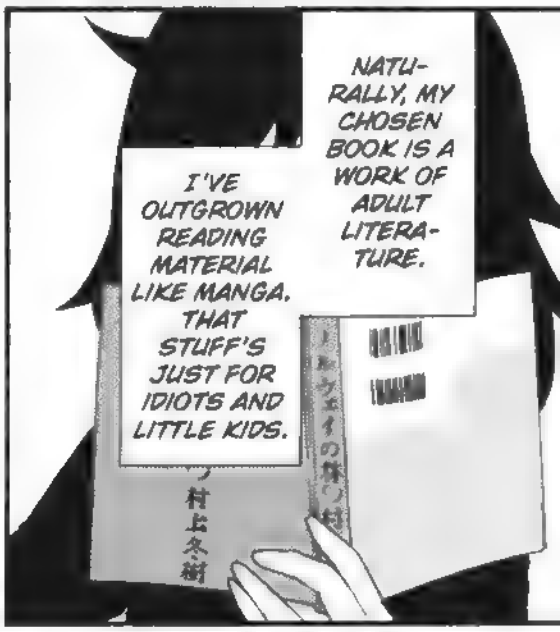

No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

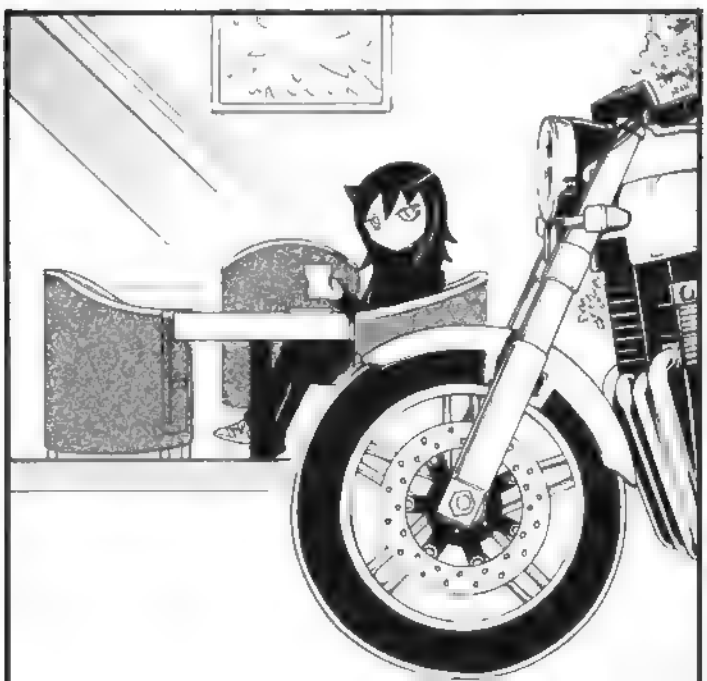
TODAY IS MY BIRTH-DAY.
TODAY IS A SPECIAL DAY.
FAIL 36: I'M NOT POPULAR, SO I'LL BECOME AN ADULT.
KA (GLARE)
A-AS SPRING APPROACHES, THE SUN'S REALLY THROWING ITS LIGHT AROUND. IT SHOULD SHOW SOME CONSIDERATION FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO ITS RAYS.
.....THE WEATHER'S JUST TOO NICE. I MEAN, IN SUNLIGHT LIKE THIS, A VAN... VAMPIRE'D BE LOST IN A FLASH...
BUT STILL, I MUST SAY...
I'M NOW SIX-TEEN YEARS OLD, AN ADULT.
...I'VE NOW MOST CER-TAINLY MATURED INTO AN ADULT.
UNLIKE THE GIRL I WAS YESTER-DAY...
...JUST LOOK AT HOW I CAN COMMENT ON THE WEATHER WITH BOTH HUMOR AND IRONY MIXED IN.

BITTER!?
IT'S SO BITTER!!
EWW!!
ZUZU (SIP)
DARING TO ARRIVE AN HOUR EARLY, I SIP COFFEE (BLACK, OF COURSE) AS I READ, ELEGANTLY ENJOYING MY ALONE TIME.

BOOK: NORWEGIAN GROVE BY FUYUKI MURAKAMI


MAN, LITERATURE IS FULL OF SEX SCENES. WAIT, ARE THOSE JUST THE ONLY PARTS I CAN FOLLOW!?
SCREW! SCREW!
PEN●S!
CUM!
ONCE YOU'VE TURNED INTO AN ADULT, YOU CAN REALLY APPRECIATE THE FASCINATION OF LITERATURE. YOU'RE TUNED INTO THE AUTHOR'S INTELLIGENCE. IT HAS A CERTAIN DEPTH THAT YOU DON'T FIND FROM MANGA CREATORS AND THEIR ILK.


I'VE OUTGROWN READING MATERIAL LIKE MANGA. THAT STUFF'S JUST FOR IDIOTS AND LITTLE KIDS.
NATURALLY, MY CHOSEN BOOK IS A WORK OF ADULT LITERATURE.



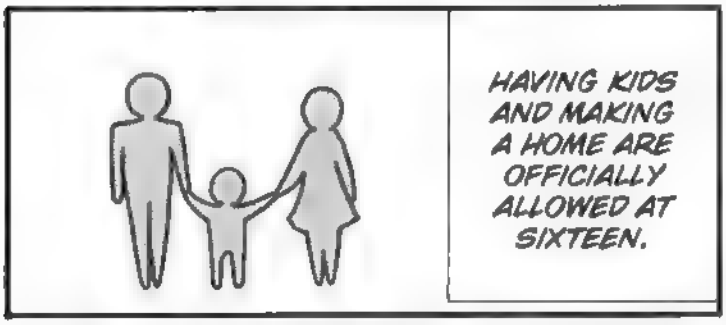
THAT MIGHT NOT BE BAD. I WANNA TRY PUTTING ON ONE OF THOSE SEXY LEATHER JUMPSUIT THINGS.
AH, A MOTOR-CYCLE... AS AN ADULT, I CAN RIDE ONE OF THOSE NOW.
COULD BE PRETTY NEAT, BEING A WOMAN ON A MOTORCYCLE, GOING AROUND TOWN. IT'S GOT A COOL, MATURE VIBE TO IT.
KIKIII (SCREECH)
GASHAAAN (CRASH)

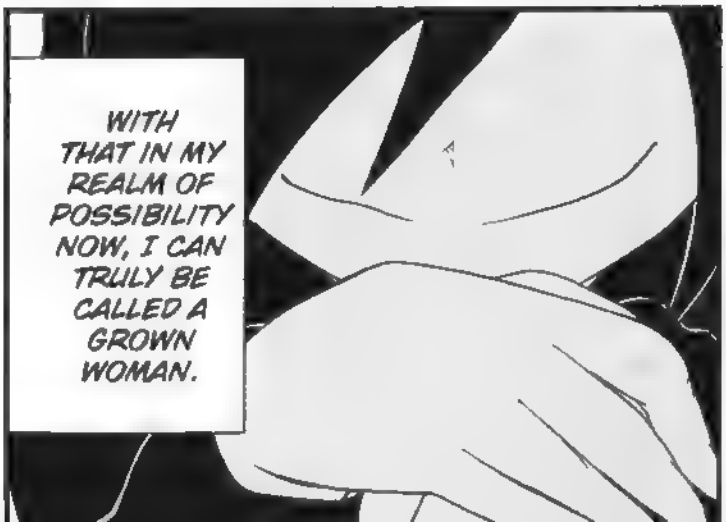
TOMOKO KUROKI
SHUUU
SHUUU

SHUUU (HISSSS)
SHUUU

I MEAN, I CAN'T EVEN RIDE A BICYCLE TO BEGIN WITH.....
MOTOR-CYCLES ASIDE, TURNING SIXTEEN IS ALL ABOUT THAT..... YOU'RE FINALLY LEGAL FOR THAT!

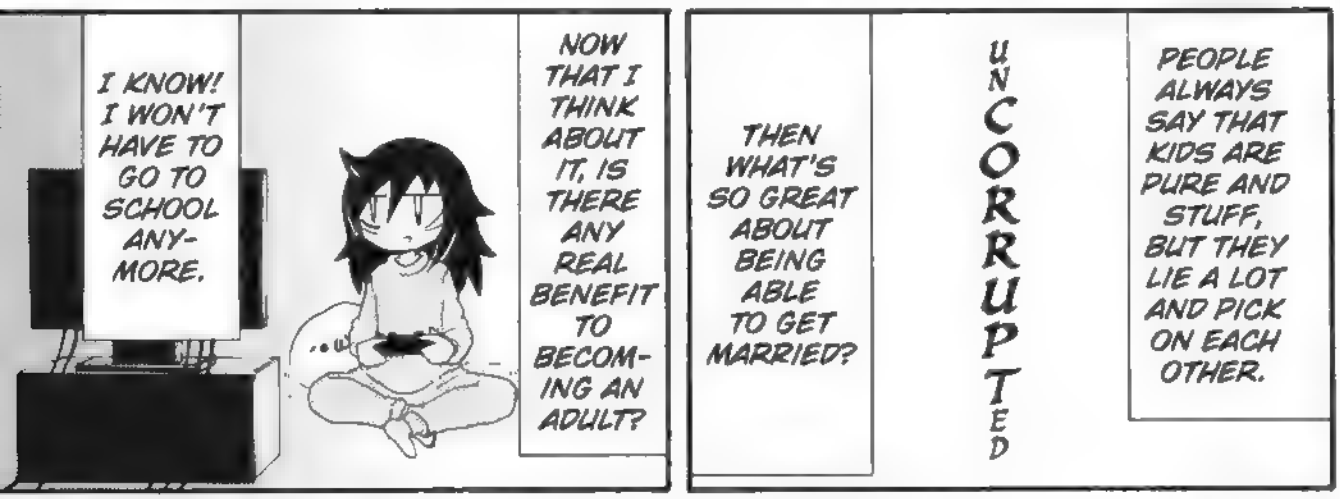
MAYBE IT'S 'COS I'M AN ADULT NOW? I IMAGINED IT TOO REALISTI-CALLY.
BUN
BUN (SHAKE)
NO, THAT FANTASY CAME OUT ALL WRONG.


HAVING KIDS AND MAKING A HOME ARE OFFICIALLY ALLOWED AT SIXTEEN.


WITH THAT IN MY REALM OF POSSIBILITY NOW, I CAN TRULY BE CALLED A GROWN WOMAN.

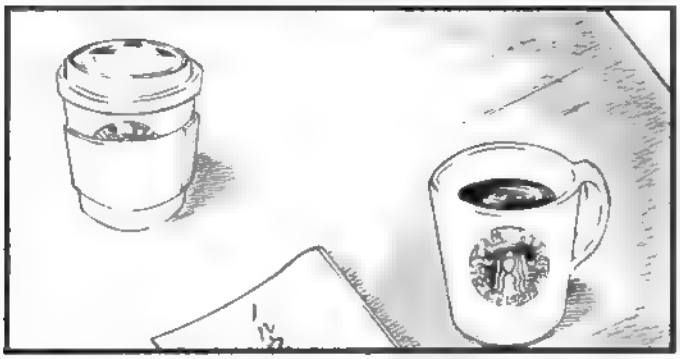
MARRIAGE!!

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE MAKING A HOME OR HAVING KIDS.
THOUGH I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST THE ACT OF MAKING KIDS ITSELF.
...I CAN GET MARRIED NOW, BUT I GOTTA FIND SOMEONE TO MARRY FIRST, RIGHT?
.....


I KNOW! I WON'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL ANY-MORE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IS THERE ANY REAL BENEFIT TO BECOM-ING AN ADULT?
THEN WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT BEING ABLE TO GET MARRIED?
UNCORRUPTED
PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY THAT KIDS ARE PURE AND STUFF, BUT THEY LIE A LOT AND PICK ON EACH OTHER.

DON'T WANNA WORK.
DON'T WANNA WORK.
DON'T WANNA WORK.
MOKOCCHI!
DON'T WANNA WORK.
DON'T WANNA WORK.
DON'T WANNA WORK.
DON'T WANNA WORK.
NO WAY! I DON'T WANNA WORK. I DON'T WANNA WORK.
WORK... ING...?
QUALITY CONTRO
OH? BUT IN THAT CASE, I'D HAVE TO START WORK-ING...

THIS GIRL'S NAME IS YUU NARUSE. SHE'S A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
AND SHE'S AS SEXY AS EVER...
HANG ON, OKAY? I'LL GO ORDER SOME-THING.



YOU'RE EARLY!
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
HUNH!?

OH!
THANKS! WHAT IS IT?
PERFUME!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOKOCCHI!

EVEN IF YOU DON'T WEAR IT, YOU CAN PUT IT IN A ROOM TO SCENT IT UP.

I GOT IT 'COS YOU WERE REALLY INTO THAT STORE'S FRAGRANCE WHEN WE WENT SHOPPING FOR UNDER-WEAR.
PER-FUME..... SUCH A GROWN-UP PRESENT.

WOWWW, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A HARD READ.
THE BOOK CAME OUT SOME TIME AGO, BUT IT'S AN INTERESTING WORK OF LITERARY FICTION. THE AUTHOR WAS EVEN IN THE RUNNING FOR THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE.
OHH, THIS?
WERE YOU READ-ING A BOOK? WHAT KIND?
MY BIRTHDAY'S COMING UP NEXT WEEK, BUT I'M STILL SUCH A KID COMPARED TO YOU, MOKOCCHI!
NOT AT ALL!
BLACK COFFEE ?
I WAS DRINKING BLACK COFFEE WHILE READING. REALLY GOT ME INTO THE STORY.
IT SOUNDS BITTER, SO I'LL PASS.
WANNA TRY? IT'S THE TRUE, UNADUL-TERATED FLAVOR OF COFFEE. IT'S REALLY GOOD.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! MOKOCCHI, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.
WHAT IS IT?
FOR REAL?
IT'S TRUE THAT AT SCHOOL I'M A CUT ABOVE THE REST, BUT YOU'RE STILL ON THE SAME LEVEL AS ME, YUU-CHAN.

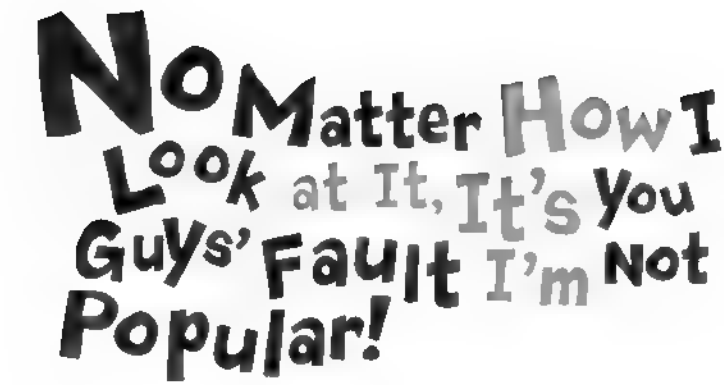
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY, BITCH?
WHAT'S XXXX?
EH!? REALLY? TELL ME!
NO... ACTUALLY, I DO.
OH! SORRY, GUESS YOU DON'T KNOW.
.....
IT'S WHEN YOU DO THE THING WITH A GUY'S THING WITH YOUR THING FOR THE THING, YOU KNOW ...
DON'T TELL ME SHE...
OH! NO! IT'S JUST A FRIEND SAID THAT TO ME, BUT I HAD NO IDEA THAT IT MEANT THAT.
IT WASN'T IN THE DICTION-ARY EITHER.
HUH? WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME THAT OUT OF THE BLUE...?

OH, RIGHT! GOOD QUESTION. I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
NO, I MEANT YOUR FRIEND ...
EH!?
NO WAY! I'D NEVER DO THAT.
S-SO DOING THAT SORTA THING WITH A BOY-FRIEND, HUH?
EH? HUH? OTHER STUFF? I'M NOT SURE...
S—
SOOO DOES THIS FRIEND DO OTHER STUFF BESIDES XXXX?
I'M NOT SURE SHE'S DONE THAT EITHER.
LIKE XXX?
EH?
TH-THIS IS ABOUT MY FRIEND NOW! I HEARD FROM MY FRIEND THAT...
.....
WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO OVERHEAR, SO...
HUH?
PIKU (COLD)
ZOKU (SHIVER)
ZOKU
AWOOO.....
PIKU

THANKS FOR THE BOOK, MOKO-CCHI. I'LL GIVE IT A TRY!
SURE. I THINK IT'S MORE UP YOUR ALLEY THAN IT IS MINE, YUU-CHAN.
OKAY, LATER!
YEP ... LATER .....
TODAY WAS MY BIRTHDAY... A BIRTHDAY THAT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I'M STILL JUST A KID.
MY SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, WHEN I DECIDED TO TAKE MY TIME BECOMING AN ADULT.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, IT'S YOU GUYS' FAULT I'M NOT POPULAR 6!


No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!

AFTERWORD, ANIME STORIES, CURRENT STATUS, ET CETERA.

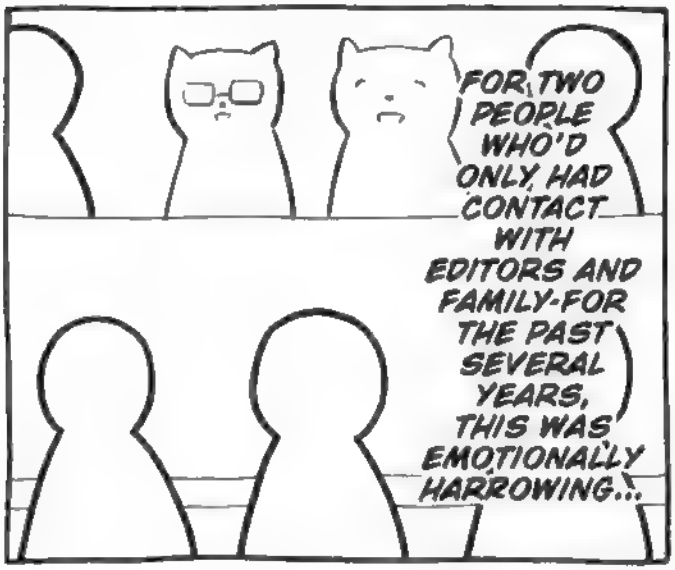
WE'RE SURE THERE'LL BE ALL KINDS OF INFO ABOUT THE ANIME AROUND THE TIME THIS VOLUME GOES ON SALE, SO WE'RE SHARING A LITTLE ABOUT IT NOW.

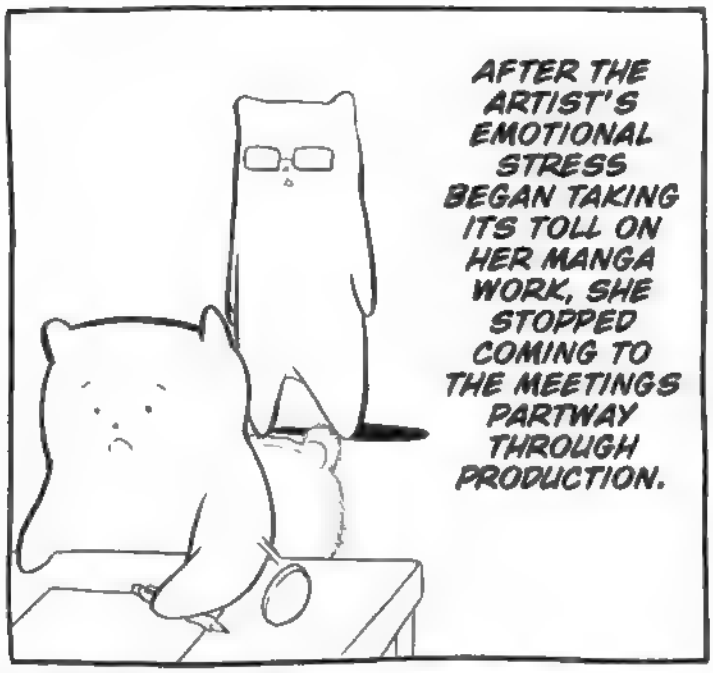
CHIBA-KUN CAME BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOKADO. I'VE NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN.

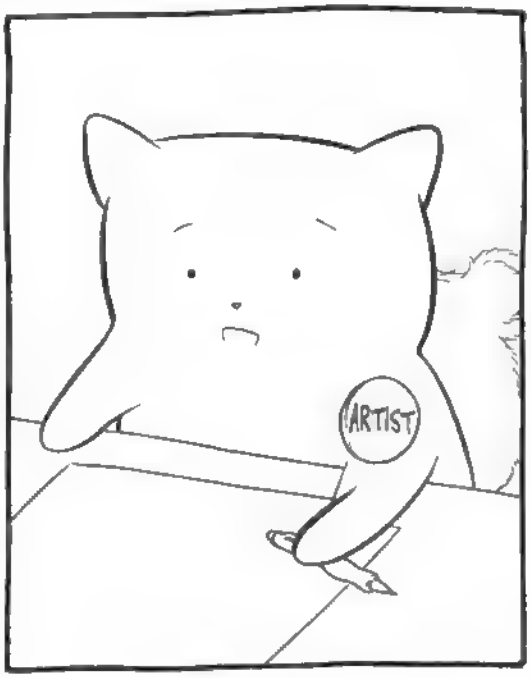
NOW THEN, FIRST UP: THE ANIME VOICE ACTING...
BY THE WAY, NUMBER GIRL, OUR SERIES RUNNING IN DENGEKI DAIOH, GOES ON SALE FIVE DAYS AFTER THIS VOLUME IN JAPAN! IT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SERIES, BUT WE'RE PLUGGING IT HERE ANYWAY.
04

IMAGE USED SINCE WE CAN'T DRAW HER ACTUAL LIKENESS
THOUGH SHE'S THE STAR, THE ROLE SEEMED MORE LIKE A PUNISH-MENT.
A BARF SCENE, PLAYED LIVE BY A GOR-GEOUS WOMAN
BLAGH-AAAAA-AGH!
RECORD-ING THE BARF SCENE FROM VOLUME 1
This *Yandere Boys* verbal abuse CD is even better than I expected.
St-stop it. I don't want you sniffing me...
Whoo-hoo! You don't get to see that in otome games!
YIIIIKES.....
WE FELT TERRIBLE ABOUT WHAT WE'D DONE .....

SINCE THE ANIMATION STAFF HAD FREE REIN FOR CREATING THE ANIME, WE THOUGHT THEY'D BE MORE LIKE, "IT'S OUR PROJECT, YOU GUYS SHUT UP AND GET BACK TO YOUR DOODLES." BUT THE ANIME STUDIO WANTED US TO COOPERATE WITH THE PRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ANIME PLANNING MEETINGS.




AFTER THE ARTIST'S EMOTIONAL STRESS BEGAN TAKING ITS TOLL ON HER MANGA WORK, SHE STOPPED COMING TO THE MEETINGS PARTWAY THROUGH PRODUCTION.



HELP BY ASSISTANT YUUJI ASAKURA-SAN

THE HEROINE LOOKS A LOT LIKE YUU-CHAN...
HER PERSONALITY'S KINDA SIMILAR TOO...
KACHI (CLICK) KACHI
"...Is that so?"
"Wow, that's amazin
Ignore him
MAKING CHOICES TO HAVE THINGS GO WELL BETWEEN YUU-CHAN AND A HOT GUY...
WHAT THE—? DOES THIS MEAN I'VE SPENT MONEY ON OGLING A ROMANCE BETWEEN YUU-CHAN AND A HOT GUY?
PEEPING IN ON A BEDROOM SCENE BETWEEN YUU-CHAN AND A HOT GUY...

SORRY, MOKOCCHI, DID YOU WAIT LONG?
IN THIS CASE, IT'S MORE LIKE LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING A HENTAI GAME, NOT AN OTOME ONE.
LATER TODAY, I'LL SEE YUU-CHAN AND ANOTHER MAN.....
GOKURI (GULP)
HM? NO, NOT REALLY...
MOKO-CCHI, YOUR FACE IS RED. DO YOU HAVE A COLD?

TRANSLATION NOTES 1

PAGE 5

A **hostess** is a woman who works at a cabaret (or hostess) club and entertains male clients by talking to them, singing karaoke with them, preparing their drinks, and lighting their cigarettes.

PAGE 7

When Tomoko mentions the **white-haired kids from *AK●RA***, she's referring to the Espers, kids with the appearance of old people due to government experimentation, in the classic anime film adaptation of the manga *AKIRA* by Katsuhiro Otomo.

PAGE 12

"No way there're gonna be any other rotten girls moonlighting at a hostess club in their first year of high school like me...Ah, I'll take that as a compliment," is Tomoko's variation of a long copy-pasta from the Japanese message board 2channel that became an Internet meme.

PAGE 13

Kabuki-chou is a neighborhood in Shinjuku, Tokyo near Shinjuku Station known for its nightlife.

PAGE 14

This **sign** at the entrance of First Avenue (Ichibangai) in Kabuki-chou actually exists. The businesses near the sign are mostly above board, but more adult establishments crop up the deeper in you go, especially down side streets. These include the health massage parlor and the soapland—a kind of brothel where women "bathe" men with their bodies—seen on the page, both of which are decidedly neither healthy nor squeaky-clean.

PAGE 16

In the original, this man refers to the **uncensored DVDs** as "unmosaiced DVDs." In Japan, it's illegal to show adult genitals, even in porn, so genitalia is obscured with mosaics.

PAGE 16

Police 24 Hours (*Keisatsu Nijuuyonji*) is a reality show that follows police officers on patrol and is broadcast in the evening on major networks in Japan. It is similar to the U.S. series, *Cops*, focusing mostly on attention-grabbing crimes related to sex, violence, and drugs.

PAGE 16

Robot Restaurant is a real cabaret club in Kabuki-chou, where the floor show features battles between robots with sexy female torsos like the ones shown here.

PAGE 23

Shiritori is a Japanese word game where each person takes turns saying a word that starts with the last syllable from the previous word, until they admit defeat or say a word that ends in "n," which is a syllable in Japanese that can never begin a word. The original exchange here was *sao* (slang for "penis") and *oppai* ("breasts").

PAGE 24

In the original, Tomoko uses the word *chichibukuro* (literally, "boob bags") for Yuu-chan's **"boobtacular"** dress. It can refer to big breasts or to a style of dress that impossibly accentuates a big bust.

PAGE 34

In Japan, the word **marathon** refers to long distance runs undertaken by schoolchildren, and the distance may vary from that of a standard marathon.

PAGE 35

The **Kazu Dance** is a reference to Japanese soccer player Kazuyoshi Miura's victory dance following his scoring of a goal. It involves waving one hand in the air while grabbing his crotch with the other.

PAGE 36

24 Hour Television is an annual Nippon TV telethon that includes a marathon run for charity.

PAGE 36

Yu●ker is short for Yunker Energy (Yunker Koutei Eki), a popular health tonic produced by Satou Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. that contains caffeine and various Chinese herbal ingredients, including viper and civet tincture.

PAGE 42

"Think in the opposite way!" (*"Gyaku ni kangaerunda!"*) is a catchphrase from Part 1 of the manga series *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure* by Hirohiko Araki. Protagonist Jotaro Kujo learned the concept from his father and uses it to find a creative solution in a tough fight.

PAGE 47

"You sewage spewed from the shitter!" is Tomoko loosely quoting a villain's insult from latter Part 5 of *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure* (*"Benki ni hakidasareta tankasu-domo ga!!"*)

PAGE 48

The original narration for **"Guess I'll put the go in goal right here, right now"** is a near-exact quote from Misuzu in a poignant scene from the final episode of *Air*, the anime series based on a visual novel.

PAGE 51

The original chapter title of Fail 31—**I'm Not Popular, So I'll Be Delusional**—is *Motenaishi, Chuunibyou Demo...* ("I'm Not Popular, But Even With *Chuunibyou...*"). *Chuunibyou*, literally "second-year middle school disease," is a Japanese term for the wild fantasies and delusions of grandeur that adolescents are often prone to and very embarrassed about once they outgrow them. Several recent light novels and anime have touched on this phenomenon, including one called *Chuunibyou Demo Koi ga Shitai!* to which the chapter title is referencing.

PAGE 52

Many high schools in Japan have students complete a **career path and curriculum survey** to choose between either literature or science as their focus starting their second year. This is one of the few choices of curriculum that students get since there is little time for electives.

PAGE 54

To●neko is a reference to Torneko, a popular weapon merchant character in the *Dragon Quest* video game series who has even gotten his own spin-off games.

PAGE 54

Tomoko uses **RPGs** to mean "Rocket-Propelled Grenades," but Yuu-chan thinks she means "Role-Playing Games."

PAGE 60

Kanto is the region of Japan comprising Tokyo and the immediate surrounding prefectures.

PAGE 60

Winter tends to be mild in the Kanto region, usually staying above freezing temperatures and with some snow, but not a lot, hence the weather report calling out **"snow even in the Kanto region."**

PAGE 62

The **major cleaning** Tomoko's mom is talking about is *oosouji*, the big household cleanup done on the final day(s) of the year, a tradition adopted from China.

PAGE 62

A ***kotatsu*** is a heated table, like the one Tomoko is drowsing under. Japanese homes tend not to have central heating, so a *kotatsu* is a very popular and cozy way to keep warm in the winter.

PAGE 64

It's a common trope for the male **protagonist in a light novel** to be domestic, breaking stereotypes in a stereotypical fashion. Another common trope is for the male protagonist to be dense and unable to pick up on a girl's interest in them.

PAGE 66

Kenshirou is the main character in the *Fist of the North Star* series created by Tetsuo Hara and Buronson. Part of the story involves Kenshirou fighting his three older "brothers" who were trained in the same martial art.

PAGE 66

"Untan!" is a reference to an ad-lib by the voice actress for Yui, a character in the anime series *K-ON!* about a school pop music club, from a scene where she plays the castanet.

PAGE 68

Shokot●n is a reference to Japanese female celebrity Shoko Nakagawa, aka. "Shokotan," who likes to wear cicada skins as a fashion statement.

PAGE 75

Kiyota is saying **"as long as it's not the 24th"** here because another of Japan's unique secular Christmas traditions is treating Christmas Eve as a big date night to spend with that special someone, much like New Year's Eve in the United States.

PAGE 76

Animal Double-Crossing is a parody of the Nintendo 3DS video game known as *Animal Crossing: New Leaf*. The original title here was *Chikushou no Mori*. Though *chikushou* can mean "beast," its main use is as a Japanese curse word.

PAGE 78

B3 is a parody of *Persona3*, or *P3*, the ultra-popular Japanese RPG for PS2. The character shown on the screen is Mitsuru Kirijou, the model for Tomoko's hairstyle in this chapter.

PAGE 78

NAKAMO WAX is a parody of a real product called NAKANO STYLING WAX.

PAGE 86

New Year's Day is a big family holiday in Japan (much like Christmas in the West), when children get **new year's gifts** (*otoshidama*) of one or more paper money bills sent or presented to them in nice envelopes. This is also another tradition with Chinese origins.

PAGE 87

"Start of Spring Excellent Luck" is a traditional phrase often used in New Year's decorations in Japan, since the year used to begin in early spring before the adoption of the western calendar.

TRANSLATION NOTES 3

PAGE 87

New Year's cards (*nengajou*) are postcards that practically everyone in Japan sends to rarely seen friends and family to let them know how they're doing, much like Christmas cards in the West. They're timed to be delivered right on New Year's Day, making it a heavy workday for the postal service.

PAGE 89

Gorou I●ogashira is a reference to Gorou Inogashira, the protagonist of the manga and drama series *Kodoku no Gourmet* (*"The Solitary Gourmet"*). He looks like an ordinary businessman but had long years of martial arts training as a youth, which he readily uses on restaurant staff or customers with whom he takes issue.

PAGE 92

One New Year's Day tradition is the **shrine visit** (*hatsumode*) for the first time that year to make an offering and prayer for the new year.

PAGE 94

A person's **first dream of the year** is thought to be very significant.

PAGE 95

PAS● is a reference to *PASH!*, an *otome* magazine. Tomoko appears to be reading the December 2012 issue, which featured the main characters for the anime series *TIGER & BUNNY* on the cover.

PAGE 95

The **dice game** (*sugoroku*) that comes with the magazine is traditionally a children's board game played by rolling a die and advancing the rolled number of spaces. The **pinning game** (*fukuwarai*) is a game where a blindfolded person pins eyes, a nose, a mouth, et cetera, onto a face, similar to "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Both are games commonly played on New Year's Day in Japan. The games in the magazine, however, feature *otome* game (***oto-ge***) themes.

PAGE 100

Am●-Talk is most likely a reference to *Ame-Tooku*, short for *Ameagari Kesshitai no Tooku Bangumi Ame-Tooku*, a variety talk show on TV Asahi.

PAGE 100

The **"quit paying attention to things that aren't there" treatment** as well as the girl with the eyepatch (Mei Misaki) as whom Tomoko is imagining herself are from the novel/anime/manga series *Another* by Yukito Ayatsuji.

PAGE 102

In the original, Tomoko puns on her last name, Kuroki, with *kuuki*, the word for "air," which is translated as **Low-Key**.

PAGE 102

T●rraformar is a reference to *Terra Formars*, a very popular sci-fi manga series where giant mutated humanoid cockroaches take over Mars. To fight them, Earth sends over humans who have undergone operations called the "BUGS Procedure" to give them powers held by a particular insect or animal.

PAGE 102

A **hyaluronic acid injection** is a procedure used mainly for cosmetic lip augmentation and wrinkle removal. The person-stats textbox style here matches that used to introduce the super-powered characters in *Terra Formars*.

PAGE 103

People wear a different pair of shoes inside Japanese schools than outside, partly out of tradition and partly to keep the floors clean. So Tomoko squishing a cockroach with her indoor shoe is even grosser than you'd think and is why the teacher suggests, **"Why don't you go clean off your shoe?"**

PAGE 107

Saitama is a prefecture located north of the Tokyo metropolis, as opposed to their current home prefecture Chiba, which is located southeast of Tokyo.

PAGE 109

Haramaku, the name of Tomoko's school, is a combined reference to a private school branch in Chiba Prefecture called Shibuya Pedagogical Academy - Makuhari Junior/Senior High School ("Shibumaku," for short) and another private school located right next door to it called Shouwa Institute - Shuuei Junior/Senior High School.

PAGE 110

There is no actual school by the name of **Saitama Urawa South-East**, but there is one for each of the standard four cardinal directions.

PAGE 116

In the original, Tomoko uses the word *yariman* for **nympho**, which is slang for a woman who engages in proactive sexual behavior with a large, unspecified number of men.

PAGE 122

***Norwegian Grove* by Fuyuki Murakami** is a parody of *Norwegian Wood* by famous contemporary Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami.

PAGE 133

Chiba-kun is the mascot for Chiba Prefecture.

NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, IT'S YOU GUYS' FAULT I'M NOT POPULAR! 4

Nico Tanigawa

Translation/Adaptation: Krista Shipley, Karie Shipley
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: January 2015

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-38428-5

App ISBN: 978-0-316-38429-2